

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

A Glorious Century



A Centennial History 1899-1999 Brunswick Baptist Association

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October 1999

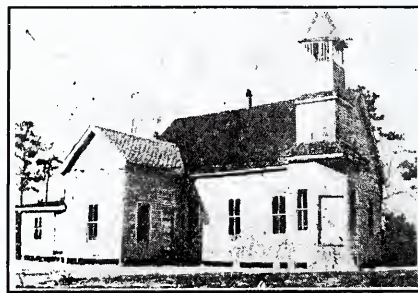
Member Churches Of The Brunswick Baptist Association (1899-1999)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE ORGANIZED</u>	<u>FIRST APPEARANCE IN MINUTES</u>
Beulah	1837	1899
Jennies Branch	1895	1899
Long Branch	1884	1899
Mill Creek	1800	1899
Mt. Pisgah	1762	1899
Oak Grove	1891	1899
Prospect	1891	1899
Poley Bridge	1885	1899
Shallotte (Old)	1837	1899
Soldier Bay	1886	1899
Southport	1870	1900
Bethel	1839	1900
Camp Branch	1888	1900
Lebanon	1873	1900
Myrtle Branch	1882	1900
Little Zoar	1888	1900
New Britton	1818	1900
Chapel Hill	1837	1900
(Shallotte First)		
Antioch	1868	1900
New Life	1888	1900
Town Creek	1884	1900
Shiloh	1872	1900
Seven Creeks	1803	1903
Elah	1882	1903
Cool Run	1904	1905
Silent Grove	1872	1907
Regan	1908	1908
Farmer's Chapel	1908	1908
Happy Home	1910	1910
Brunswick	1911	1911
(Mill Creek)		
Mt. Olive	1912	1913
Bolivia	1912	1913

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE ORGANIZED</u>	<u>FIRST APPEARANCE IN MINUTES</u>
Friendship	1916	1916
Summerville	1918	1918
Zion	1919	1920
Goshen	1852	1932
Sabbath Home	1930	1933
Longwood	1939	1939
Boones Neck	1946	1946
Leland	1925	1947
Supply	1948	1948
Ocean View	1949	1949
Gospel Center	1952	1952
Bowden Memorial	1954	1954
Shell Point	1960	1960
Calvary	1961	1961
Peace Memorial	1961	1961
Temple	1963	1963
Community Chapel	1965	1965
Boiling Spring	1965	1967
Lakes First		
Oak Island First	1967	1967
Sunset Harbor First	1968	1968
Woodburn First	1968	1969
Calabash First	1969	1969
Faith	1977	1977
Fellowship	1981	1981
Bonaparte	1986	1987
Grace	1984	1987
Stanley Road	1984	1987
Freedom	1985	1985
Beach Road	1989	1989
Fellowship	1991	1992
(Ash, NC)		
Brunswick Islands	1991	1992
New Ebenezer	1992	1999



Mt. Pisgah Church, 1964.



Mill Creek Church, 1938.

Both congregations were part of the Lockwood Folly Meeting House, the first recorded settlement of Baptist in this area. The settlers were primarily fishermen from Cape May, New Jersey. The church was organized by Rev. Ezekiel Hunter in 1762.

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**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
A GLORIOUS CENTURY
A Centennial History
1899-1999**

**Written and Compiled By
Gwen Causey**

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3. Page 16: Change August 21, 1998 to August 21, 1988.	23
4. Page 18: Add Long Branch to list of churches in first paragraph.	31
5. Page 19: Change Friendship (est. 1985) to Freedom (est. 1985).	40
6. Page 21: Change Cool Run Church, 1904-1965 to Cool Run Church, 1904-1954.	42
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Introduction

The history of the Brunswick Baptist Association is important to us today and for the generations who follow us. Our descendants will want to know who we were and what we accomplished.

The purpose of writing this history is to preserve what is known about the beginnings of the Brunswick Baptist Association. This will help us become more familiar with our heritage and to better appreciate what our forefathers did to contribute to the spiritual welfare of our lives. Knowing of their faith and the difficulties they faced should challenge us to use every opportunity and resource available to make sure future generations are aware of our faithfulness and what we've done to contribute to their spiritual welfare.



Some events of the past are of much more significance than others. It was impossible to include all events of the past one hundred years-too many annual meetings, Executive Board Meetings, and Committee reports.

What we know about our association's past has come down to us because records (church and association) were written and preserved. All future records should be carefully recorded and safely preserved. Those responsible should accurately and plainly record meetings and entries should be made of special happenings and events in the life of the church or association.

The majority of the material in this book is a result of the efforts and perservance of Rev. William (Bill) Deitz. For over 25 years he has had an insatiable interest in church history. He has collected church histories and newspaper clippings about all churches in Brunswick County. His files fill several boxes. Most of this information came to him as a result of our Nation's Bicentennial (1976) Celebration. One of the projects of the Bicentennial Commission was to collect the church histories of all denominations in the county. Mrs. Berlyn S. Lancaster borrowed church records and

wrote approximately ten church histories. She and Mrs. Susan S. Carson were invaluable sources of help for Rev. Deitz. Mrs. Carson wrote several church histories and served as a typist and editor for him.

Many are the people who have been of assistance to me. Mr. John W. Butler proved to be most helpful in locating associational records and unpublished documents. He was able to provide names and clues that would help make my search for information easier. While serving as Associational Clerk he prepared the church histories that appeared in the annual minutes. One of his most important contributions was the Digest of Growth, 1899-1971. He was an encourager when I seemed to reach a dead end. Mr. Butler traveled the county taking pictures of the churches and often made return trips to get just the right picture. Mrs. Susan S. Carson provided the WMU history for which I am most grateful. This was truly a product of her love for the WMU and the association. She has served faithfully for over 50 years in many roles of leadership, once serving as Associational Clerk. Rev. William L. Smith, Director of Missions, and Mrs. Patricia Lewis, office secretary, have cooperated with me to the fullest extent. Never was I denied access to associational records or documents. On every occasion Mrs. Lewis assisted me, even to the point of searching files for information. She proved to be a resource of current knowledge on the status of churches and their leaders.

Numerous churches responded to my request for their updated histories and/or pictures. Thanks to Beach Road, Calvary, Community Chapel, Elah, Faith, Goshen, Gospel Center, Longwood, Mill Creek, New Ebenezer, New Life, Peace Memorial, Prospect and Sabbath Home, and Soldier Bay churches.

Ms. Rachel Miller of Miller Printing proved to be invaluable as an editor and advisor. Her humorous approach to the problems of publication made the job seem effortless. Ms. Charlene Hockett, type setter, spent many long hours at the computer. She worked diligently to prepare the material for printing. Both ladies are true professionals.

Most of the words in this book are from other people. I gleaned their reports to the Associational Meetings, extracted the minutes of the Executive Board Meetings, read their letters and correspondences, searched through and read hundreds of written histories and listened to their voices as they reminisced and reflected on the past. Without the assistance of you, the associational members, this compilation would not have been possible.

Because of our faithfulness we can rejoice as God's Kingdom moves forward in the Brunswick Baptist Association.

Gwen Causey
Editor

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

We welcome you and thank you for being a part of the Centennial Celebration of the Brunswick Baptist Association. This is a special time in the life and work of Brunswick Baptist. Our gathering together will give us an opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and begin to look forward to the future.

God has allowed us to live in a period of history with tremendous opportunity to witness and minister to people. He has always been adequate in ages past to those who have faith and practice it. Yes, He will be our hope and strength as we seek to mold the future of Brunswick Baptist. We thank God for His everlasting grace and mercy as we celebrate in worship and praise during this special occasion.

We gather today the memories of the past and wonder how God has brought us to this point. Some years ago there was no land and building called the Brunswick Baptist Resource Center. However, Brunswick Baptist rallied to the task of purchasing land and building a facility that Brunswick Baptist can be proud to call a beacon of light and hope in the county.

Through it all Brunswick Baptist have been challenged to see the hand of God as He shaped the faith and the vision of the people we call Brunswick Baptist. As we look back at the past we can see the hand of God active and working among the people.

Approximately one year ago the association voted to build a disaster recovery building to house our disaster recovery trailer and supplies needed in case of a disaster. The building will be equipped with men and ladies restrooms including showers. These facilities will be accessible from the outside and available to those who come to help with disaster recovery. The building will also be used to store recreational equipment and the restrooms will be available to the participants of all associational recreational activities.

Now we need to pray that God would give us wisdom and vision to plan for the future. God is always active in history and has a plan for His people. We must have faith, believing that God has a special plan for us. We must seek God's will in prayer and be sensitive to His direction.

One thing is for sure, we are seeing a migration of people at a phenomenal rate to Brunswick County. The Star News, in the article dated October 19, 1997, quoted Charles F. Longino, Jr., a Wake Forest University professor specializing in migration trends, who has categorized the people coming to Brunswick County as "amenity migrants," usually pre-retirees looking to stay ahead of the baby boomer pack moving to the coast. He also said that Southeastern North Carolina has everything they are looking for; a low crime rate, mild weather, good hospitals, and a low overall cost of living. "This is the golden stream coming our way-the cream of the crop." He said, "They have a lot of wealth and a lot of ability."

Many changes are taking place in Brunswick County. My guess is within five to ten years Brunswick County will take on a new personality. It will look different, act different, and be a mixture of varied groups of people. We are faced with a tremendous responsibility to reach out, minister, and provide spiritual leadership to all groups of people.

Looking to the future we will have to provide worship facilities in high density populated locations of the county. This will demand that we start new churches that will provide an opportunity for new ideas and new innovations for evangelism, outreach, Bible study, and worship. New church starts will be necessary for the association to grow. Reaching people for Jesus should be our goal for Brunswick County in the near future.

Christian education and training of leaders in the churches of the association is another vital link to fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ and to provide a great future. This will demand that we provide for all ages, races, and social groups.

As we celebrate today, 100 years of Brunswick Baptist let us be reminded that it is faith that has held us together and will hold us together. We must have faith to accomplish the task before us. We have faith to accomplish the task before us. We have great resources today to help us but will we have the faith needed to fulfill that which God is calling us to do. A quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson will help clarify my point. "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

We recognize that challenge and opportunity lie before us. My prayer is that Brunswick Baptist will rise to the task that God has given us and be dedicated and fruitful in the days ahead. May the excitement and activities of this day be a reflection of our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Rev. William L. Smith
Director of Missions

THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE: BRUNSWICK BAPTISTS 1762-1999

The modern missionary movement dates back to the year 1792. William Carey, a Baptist preacher and shoe cobbler, followed God's call to India, and the modern era of missions was launched. The missionary spirit was alive and well in Brunswick County, NC long before Carey went to India. Mt. Pisgah Church dates to 1762, and Mill Creek Church began in 1800. Both churches are still active in associational life.

During the next century missionary outreach gained momentum and when the year 1899 closed out, nine Baptist churches were reported. The big leap forward had begun. The newly formed Brunswick Baptist Association added churches from other associations and in 1900 counted 22 churches in full membership. The total missions offering reported in 1900 amount to \$40.60.

Today the Association reports 40 member churches. Our total gifts to all causes topped four million dollars with over \$552,000 going to missionary causes. The value of church property today is listed over \$18,000,000! What incredible growth - from \$40.60 total mission expenditures in 1900, to \$532,000 total mission giving in 1999. The number of churches has nearly doubled since 1900. Church membership stood at 727 in 1900. Today, in 1999, our total resident membership stands at 6,508.

Do these last years of the century afford us clues for Kingdom advance into the 21st century? Surely all the resources are in place, and God is waiting for His church to accept the challenge and move forward. However, we do have a serious missionary problem, and it concerns our membership record. The record reveals that in 1988 there were 6714 resident members. In 1998 our records noted 6508 resident members. We are closing this century with 40 member churches. Eight of these 40 churches count more than 50% of the total membership of the associational churches.

Here is the challenge immediately before us. Since 1990, our county population has increased by 18,515 people; yet our churches do not reflect any significant reaching of these people.

The mission field is coming to us. Some of our churches are responding to this staggering challenge with creativity, enthusiasm and courage. This kind of courage embraces faith and sacrifice and a whole lot of love.

Our local missions development people have identified three things that measure the missionary health of a church - compassion, generosity, and hospitality. And it is all contained in John 3:16. "God so loved the world (compassion), that He gave His only son (generosity), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (Whosoever means everybody is welcome here - hospitality). Compassion was Jesus, Jesus was compassion expressing itself in generosity and completing itself in hospitality.

The simplest and most effective way to implement this three-fold formula of compassion, generosity, and hospitality is called "ministry-evangelism." Our churches must accept full responsibility to reach out to the lost, the dying, the desperate, the poor and hungry, the abused and addicted, the lonely right in our neighborhood. If the church ministers to their needs, God will save them and bring them into our communities of faith. One important way to move into ministry is the discovery of the lay-renewal movement. Our churches need to affirm the God-given gifts already present in their people. And for churches in ministry-evangelism who have passed through a lay renewal (ministry or witness) week, the big discovery is prayer. Prayer must be reestablished as our mother tongue, and everyone needs to know that the language spoken in our churches is prayer.

Mike Regele, co-founder of Percepts and the Church Revisioning process, provides a challenge to Brunswick Baptist Association churches on the threshold of the 21st century. At least three of our churches have completed the revisioning process. On the jacket cover of his book, the challenge is about change and the future of the church.

Change pervades today's world. Change has always been a part of the social landscape. But today another kind of change upsets all our predictions and securities. We don't know what shape the future will take - but it will not be anything like what we are used to.

In the face of these waves of change, the institutional church in America has two options. Either it will go about it's business as usual and be swallowed up by obsolescence and die by default, or the church will choose to die and thus find life!

Rev. Jack Hancox
Missions Development Director

The Biblical Imperative That We Do History

Imagine that you and your family went out into the woods and gathered sticks and twigs and branches and you all built a makeshift shelter, sort of like a lean-to. Imagine that you and your family lived in that lean-to for seven days. Imagine that all of your friends and neighbors did the same thing. Imagine that, during those seven days in the lean-to, you sang songs about your family history and your nation's history. Some of the songs even recalled terrible mistakes made by the family and by the nation. This would be a strange gathering, wouldn't it?

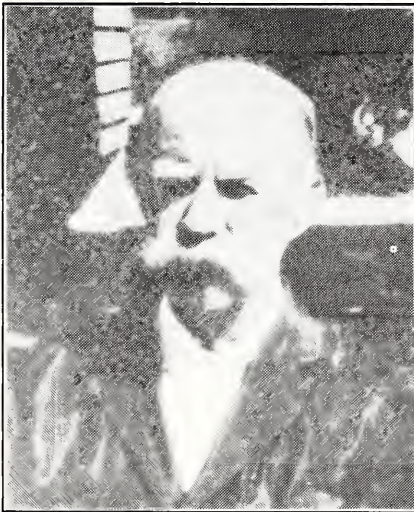
Yet, the ancient Israelite engaged in such a practice every year. What I have described is very much like a portion of the Feast of Booths. In this festival, the people remembered a part of their history. They remembered the years they wandered in the wilderness due to their own disobedience. They remembered how God had cared for them even in those wilderness years of their history. Furthermore, those rickety lean-tos standing next to their nice homes in Jerusalem were a vivid reminder of how far God had brought them. Psalm 95 is thought to be a hymn sung during the Feast of Booths. That psalm recalls those 40 years of wandering. It mentions specific historical incidents by name (Meribah and Massah.)

Look at this powerful biblical example of remembering history! A religious observance was dedicated to deliberately remembering the history of the people. They even sang songs about specific events from their history -- even the ugly parts of their history. The Feast of Booths is only one of many biblical examples of the people remembering their history. In both the Old and New Testaments, God's people regularly looked at their history.

If we would follow the biblical pattern, then we must remember our history. After citing an Old Testament story, the apostle Paul told the believers at Corinth that historical accounts are "examples" to us. The Bible instructs us by example to look at history that we might learn from our mistakes and repeat our successes. Let us not fail to follow the biblical imperative to examine our history.

I am pleased that you have decided to participate in our Centennial Celebration. Get excited about learning from our history. After all, you are doing what the Bible tells you to do.

David Stratton
Moderator, Brunswick Baptist Association



Rev. J.A. Mintz, Moderator 1899,
Pastor of Prospect and Old Shallotte
Churches.



Rev. David Stratton, Moderator
1999, Pastor of
Brunswick Islands Church.

Churches In Association

The concept and the organization known as an association first emerged among Baptists over three hundreds years ago. The idea of the association arose in England following a plan that developed in the winter of 1642-43 among certain countries that had associated together for mutual defense against Royalist plundering. English soldiers stationed in Wales and Ireland during the English Civil War in the 1640's formed associations for fellowship and to keep alive the ideals of their home areas. Some of these soldiers were Baptists who settled in Ireland when the army was disbanded. These men organized churches which sought to keep in touch with one another through frequent visits of their leaders. The churches corresponded with one another and sent representatives to meetings called to discuss matters of mutual concern. The name "Association" was applied to this type meeting. During this period Baptist churches in England, particularly in London, had begun to seek fellowship and counsel with one another. By 1642 there were 42 known Baptist Associations in England.

Hugh Wamble in his study of connectionalism among seventeenth century English Baptists observed that a single church often had several scattered congregations due in part to the problem of transportation. The various congregations met for work in their individual locales, but they came together periodically for discipline and communion. These periodic meetings developed into associational life.

The associational idea was brought to this country by Baptists from England, Wales, and Ireland. Baptist settlers who came to Pennsylvania long had been accustomed to the advantages of associational life. The first Baptist church in America was organized about 1639, but it was not until 1707 that the first association was formed in America. However, several years prior to the forming of the Philadelphia Association, Baptist church congregations in the Philadelphia area held quarterly meetings (called "general meeting") for preaching, administration of the ordinances, and for the discussion of doctrines, policy, discipline, and evangelism.

Roots are essential to a tree's well-being. So it is with the Baptist Association. Its deep roots are indispensable to its quality of life.

The association's roots are sunk deeply into the soil of Baptist history. According to theologian Walter Shurden, "Early Baptists did not come together to form something; they cooperated together or associated together in order to do something."

The association's roots are also sunk deeply into the soil of biblical principles. Acts 15 offers a model of interchurch cooperation. The Jerusalem Council, provides a presursor to today's Baptist Association.

Historically, theologically, and biblically, the Baptist Association has deep roots, which translate into quite a heritage -- and quite a future.

Sources: History of Waccamaw Baptist Association by Emory F. Young, 1974.
Brunswick Baptist Association Newsletter, June 1991.

THE BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION: OUR HISTORY

Deep in the past are the roots of the Brunswick Baptist Association, that is, the Brunswick Baptist Association which was formed in 1899 and still exists today.

As early as 1661 English Baptist churches were "associating" themselves for fellowship and because of their common needs and problems. Baptist churches found it difficult and even dangerous to exist, but exist they did and formed associations.

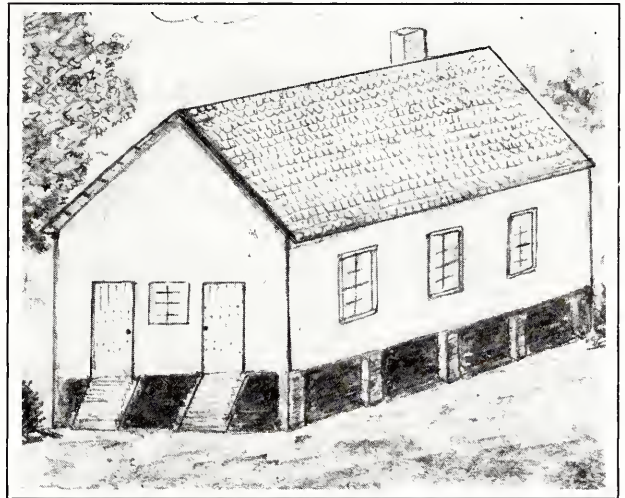
Baptists came to North Carolina as early as 1714, possibly even prior to 1700, and small Baptist churches sprang up in the various areas of the state, particularly along the coast. The associational pattern, familiar to English Baptists, continued and in 1707 the Philadelphia Association was formed, followed by the Charleston Association in 1751, the Sandy Creek Association in 1758, and the Kehukee Association in 1769, the latter two being in North Carolina. By 1794, the Neuse Association had been organized and early records show that Mt. Pisgah and Mill Creek churches were members of that Association. A few years later, in 1805, The Neuse Association had grown so large that the territory was divided and 14 of its churches were dismissed to form the Cape Fear Association. By 1825 the Cape Fear Association had 47 churches and 305 members. Once again, in 1826, a division was made with churches south and west of the Cape Fear River to continue as the Cape Fear Association. By 1873, the 69th year of the Cape Fear Association, there were 16 churches of Brunswick County listed in its minutes.

The years just prior to the turn of the century were a period of religious awakening and many new churches were organized. Because of this and the great distances that had to be traveled for associational meetings, the large associations began to break up and smaller groups of churches formed themselves into associations.

Many of the churches in the extreme southeast coastal region of North Carolina which are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention belonged prior to 1887 to either the Cape Fear Association in North Carolina or the Waccamaw Association in South Carolina. In 1887 these Baptist churches from Brunswick County joined together to form the South Atlantic Association. Beginning with the 1893 session they changed the name from South Atlantic Association to Brunswick Baptist Association (now referred to as Brunswick I.) This associa-

tion lasted for one year and in 1894 the Brunswick Association returned to the Cape Fear Association. The following churches joined The Cape Fear Association: Beulah, Chapel Hill, Friendship, Long Branch, Magnolia, Mill Creek, New Britton, New Life, Poley Bridge, Prospect, Shallotte, Shiloh, and Soldier Bay.

In 1898 the Cape Fear Association consolidated with the newly organized Columbus Association to form the Cape Fear-Columbus Association. At its first annual session ten Brunswick County churches: Beulah, Soldier Bay, Jennies Branch, Poley Bridge, Mill Creek, Shallotte, Prospect, Shiloh, Oak Grove and Mt. Pisgah, asked for letters of dismissal from it to form a county grouping. Letters were granted on November 18, 1899.



These churches, with the exception of Shiloh, met at (Old) Shallotte Church on November 30, December 1, 2, and 3, 1899, and organized our present Brunswick Baptist Association. Rev. J.A. Mintz was elected Moderator, Isaac Jenrette was elected Clerk, and Isaac Milliken became Treasurer. Others taking an active part at that session were G. W. Sellers, Rev. Joseph Bennett, Rev. Jefferson Sellers, Rev. D. L. Hewett, J.A. Russ, V. Smith and C. Evans. The first collection for the benefit of the new association was taken and amounted to \$2.16.

The second Annual Session was held at Mt. Pisgah church on November 8-11, 1900. On the first day an invitation was extended to other Baptist churches in the area to join the Brunswick Association and before

the session was over Southport, Bethel, Camp Branch, Myrtle Branch, Little Zoar, New Britton, Chapel Hill, Antioch, New Life, Town Creek and Shiloh churches were received. That same year, for the first time, Brunswick Association II was mentioned in the North Carolina Baptist State Convention minutes. Jennies Branch and Southport churches had sent messengers to the Convention.

In every session of the Association a deep interest was shown in missions - foreign, home, state and associational. This interest was especially strong among the women of the Association who often attended the annual sessions with their husbands or fathers. In 1902, while the Association was in session at Jennies Branch church, the women in attendance met in a little school-house nearby and on November 7, organized the first Woman's Missionary Union of the Brunswick Association. Antioch church had a mission society which had been organized in 1899, and in their old minute book reference was made to a Woman's Missionary Society at Southport. It is not known if there were mission organization in any of the other churches. The Woman's Missionary Union (SBC) had been organized in 1888 and Central Committees had been named for the participating states, so it is quite possible that there were already several mission societies in the area.

In this first Associational WMU, Mrs. David Ward of Antioch church ("Mother Ward" as she came to be lovingly called by the women of the Association) presided. She had been named "Associational Vice President" by Miss Fannie E. S. Heck who was then President of the North Carolina Central Committee for Missions. Miss May Ward, also of Antioch, was named secretary for the new organization. Mrs. Ward, Mrs. J. J. Loughlin, and some of the other women who were determined that the cause of missions should go forward in Brunswick County, began traveling by horse and buggy over poor roads, sometimes even taking to boats, to organize mission societies in any church where they could. Quite often they met with opposition. Some of the women refused to join any "society", saying they belonged to the "Society of Heaven." Others were forbidden by their husbands to join. Some of the husbands, feeling that it was a sin for women to speak in church and others believing that their wives were being asked to join a "secret society", were highly opposed. However, aided by such stalwart and fearless pastors as Rev. A. W. Clemmons and Rev. D. L. Hewett, who firmly believed in the cause of missions, these women persisted and

mission societies for women and young people continue to be organized.

During the first ten years of the life of the Association much emphasis was placed on education, old ministers' relief, state mission, home missions, foreign missions, Sunday Schools, prayer meetings, orphanages and temperance. Special offerings were taken for each of these programs.

At the end of the first ten years there were 26 churches comprising its membership as compared with ten the first session.

During this first decade of our history there was a keen interest in providing education for the young people, both secular and religious. The Brunswick Association supported a boarding school known as Dell School, which was a cooperative effort with other associations in this region of the state. The school was located near Delway and Harrells in Sampson County, NC. Many young men from Brunswick County attended the school.

At one point the Association was divided into an Eastern District and a Western District with a missionary appointed for service in each district. The churches were small and without much money and most of them had only part-time preaching. The "missionaries" who were appointed were pastors within the Association who could travel from church to church, preach where needed and promote causes that were being fostered by the Association. The churches where they preached were often referred to as mission stations.

Interest in Sunday Schools was quite evident from many reports and discussions in the annual sessions, and in January, 1909 the Brunswick Sunday School Convention was organized at the Mill Creek church, with Rev. J. O. Fulbright as chairman and Elisha Sellers as secretary. The purpose of this organization was to strengthen Sunday School work in the association. Delegates from 13 churches attended the convention. It is interesting to note that the main discussion in that first meeting of the convention centered around the query, "How are we to enlist the young people in Sunday School work?"

Reports from these first ten years of our existence show a slow but steady growth in the number of churches and gifts to many worthy causes, such as home, foreign, and state missions, the orphanage and Christian Education. During these years Cool Run, Farmer's Chapel, Happy Home and Regan churches were organized.

From 1911 to 1920, Brunswick County, along with almost all areas of the world, prepared for and entered World War I. This took its toll, and the work of the Association slowed down as men, money and time had to be given to the war effort. Fort Caswell was manned as an Army base and several of the churches, especially Southport and Bethel, ministered to the soldiers stationed there and were in turn blessed by the talents of the men. In 1919 came the great flu epidemic and the churches of our Association were perhaps affected more by this disaster than by the war. No minutes were printed in 1919 because of the influenza epidemic and there is no record of minutes for 1921. No reason is given in this instance. However, Rev. Tom Williams recalls attending a meeting in 1919 at Mill Creek Church. The churches organized during this period of our history were Bolivia, Friendship (combining Long Branch and Regan,) Mt. Olive, Summerville (which survived only one year,) and Zion.

In WMU, Mrs. Carl Ward served as Associational Vice President for most of this period. Only about one-half of the churches had any mission organizations and Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Loughlin continued their efforts in starting new societies. The young people, especially YWA and Sunbeams, responded much more than adults. Girls' Auxiliary was not organized in the Southern Baptist Convention until 1913 and none of the churches in the Brunswick Association reported a GA organization until much later.

Also, in 1913, the WMU celebrated its Jubilee or 25th year and the Brunswick WMU joined in this by having a special program and an offering for the Judson Centennial Fund.

It is quite interesting to note that in 1914 the women were sponsoring an associational library. The 1918 minutes show that the women were hard at work for the "Million Dollar Campaign" of the Southern Baptist Convention and that they had also purchased books for the "traveling" library and these were now in circulation. The State Secretary of WMU met with the women in their annual session and gave the money which was paid her for expenses back to the Association for the purchase of a book for the traveling library and made a suggestion as to which book to buy. The women voted to purchase the book recommended and place it in the library in her honor.

The 20's brought a period of false prosperity and the beginnings of the Great Depression, but in spite of this strides were made in the Association. Interest had

continued to be strong in Sunday School work and the Executive Committee, under the leadership of Rev. Braxton Craig, Rev. B. R. Page and W. A. Grissett, recommended that a full-time Sunday School field worker be employed as soon as the churches would agree to pay the Association's part of the salary and expenses for such worker. The Sunday School Board in Nashville was to pay half and the Association would pay the other half of the salary. The churches agreed to cooperate and in 1926 Miss Lillian Mabry was hired and began her work. Her report to the Annual Session that fall showed that much progress had been made not only in Sunday School work, but also in B. Y. P. U.

In this decade, Mrs. Carl Ward and Mrs. B. R. Page led in the Associational WMU. Miss Mabry was also a great help, especially in encouraging the youth work. The WMU sponsored a camp called Caswell City. In the minutes no indication was given as to its location. The next year the camp was held at Holden Beach and was called Camp Mabry. By this time there were several GA organizations reported. The Sunbeams were the most active of all the WMU organizations. Only two new churches, Leland and Sabbath Home, were organized during this time.

The following decade brought a full-fledged depression, a slow recovery from it, and then the beginnings of another war, all of which had an adverse effect on the rural structure of our association. The associational minutes of this period listed 19 churches. Some of the earlier churches having disbanded or having joined other associations. During this time Longwood was the only new church organized.

In 1934 we find the Association particularly interested in training workers in the local churches. The old B. Y. P. U. had now become the Training Union and provisions were made for the training of adults as well as the youth.

On June 8, 1935, there was a special called meeting of the Association to discuss our church problems together and to find a means by which, if possible, we may serve our Lord better in our home, church and community. One of the particular problems discussed was that of increasing our gifts to the Cooperative Program.

In WMU the work seemed to be firmly established and gifts to missions were increasing. The 50th Anniversary of the WMU (Southern Baptist Convention) was celebrated in 1938 and our Associational WMU gave \$103.38 for China Relief as a memorial to Mrs. Mary Curtis Ward who had died in 1937.

World War II came suddenly on December 7, 1941, and brought with it the problem of shortages, rationing, crowding, and heartbreak as thousands of Brunswick County men were called into service, many of whom did not return. Fort Caswell was again activated as a military base and our several beaches were patrolled by men from nearby Coast Guard and Army units, thus bringing into our association many new people. Many of our churches made special efforts to minister to these people. Boones Neck, Ocean View and Supply churches were organized, bringing our total to 27 churches.

At the 1941 Annual Session the churches were being urged to pay their pastors a living wage so they would not need to seek outside employment. The report of Mr. E. J. Prevatte on Old Ministers' Relief brought to the attention of the people at this session the urgency of the churches to make plans for the protection of their pastors in the years of retirement and disability. Between that date and the close of the decade many of the churches had made this provision and pastors' salaries were increased in many instances.

We elected a Training Union Organizer in 1943, as a general officer of the Association and she, together with a group of other volunteers, mainly from the Southport Church, went into many of the churches putting on demonstration programs and teaching study courses. The work continued for several years and at least seven Training Unions were organized as a result.

In WMU, the 40's brought an increased emphasis on mission study and leadership training. Many classes and workshops were held. State and District meetings were attended by the leaders and on occasions State and District WMU workers came into the association to hold study courses.

Even though the Cooperative Program had come into existence in 1925, it was not until well into this decade that most of the churches in the Association came to support it in earnest. It was also during this time that many of the churches adopted the Unified Budget System.

Slowly this pattern of giving and stewardship began to be felt in associational work and in 1947 the Brunswick Association hired its first Associational Missionary, Rev. George W.H. White, who served seven months. The Brunswick Association had been growing and its people were beginning to realize the need for someone to coordinate the promotion of all phases of the work. At this time there were 25 churches in the

Association. The following is the first Associational Missionary report made to the Association: As Missionary of the Brunswick Baptist Association I have either supplied the pulpit or worked in 13 of the 25 churches. Various activities include:

Sermons preached -----	72
Visits to Hospitals -----	6
Study Courses taught -----	4
Vacation Bible Schools conducted -----	3
Pastor's conference attended -----	3
Union meetings attended -----	2
R.A. Meetings attended -----	1
Revival Meetings held -----	5

In 1948, Rev. W. R. Moorehead was employed as Associational Missionary by the Association and served in that capacity until 1952. During this time much emphasis was placed on Christian growth and Rev. Moorehead spent much of his time preaching in part-time churches and in teaching many study courses. Travel was difficult because of the poor roads in many areas of the county and funds were limited, but Rev. Moorehead worked diligently to promote the program of each organization.

**REV. W. R. MOOREHEAD, ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY,
BOLIVIA, N. C., OCTOBER 21, 1948**

Personal visits	350
Revivals held	2
Conferences held	29
Meetings attended	45
WMU study courses taught	5
Committee meetings held	5
Taught Sunday School Lesson	10
Visits to County Home	1
Visits to hospitals	2
Union meetings attended	1
Miles traveled (July 6th to Oct. 6th)	4,800
Traveling expenses	\$143.00
Associational supplies	\$44.75

Following the close of World War II, Rev. Herbert M. Baker, then associational moderator, had the dream of North Carolina Baptists purchasing Fort Caswell to be used as an assembly grounds. The fort had been declared surplus property by the Navy and was available. Through his efforts and those of E. J. Prevatte, with the encouragement and assistance of Rev. Moorehead, the Associational Missionary at the time, the Baptist State Convention was convinced that it should purchase the

property. This was done and the development of the assembly program which was to mean so much to us began.

By the time of the 1952 Associational Meeting there were 29 churches in the Association. The minutes reveal that during the years the association had continued to grow and had continued to emphasize the Sunday Schools, Woman's Missionary Union, the orphanage, temperance and morals.

In 1952, Rev. W. R. Moorehead resigned and on December 14 of that year Mrs. Margaret C. McRackan was employed as our Associational Missionary. Mrs. McRackan was serving as Associational WMU Superintendent at the time and Mrs. Dennis Hewett was chosen to serve out her unfinished term. The WMU that year reported organizations in 20 churches, with 720 women and children involved in missions.

In Mrs. McRackan's 1953 report to the association it is noted that Training Union was still the weakest link. Significant gains had been made in all other areas. A committee had been appointed and was working on the goals for the Southern Baptist Convention emphasis of "A Million More in '54". The assembly program was getting underway at Fort Caswell in a splendid manner and many of our age-level rallies, camps and banquets had been held there. Our people were taking part in the activities offered at the assembly.

Statistical Report of the Missionary - January 1 to September 30, 1953:

Conferences held -----	354
Committees & Groups -----	107
Groups (Associational Wide Meetings) -----	8
Study Courses -----	12
Visits to hospitals -----	25
Sunday School lessons -----	25
Union Meetings -----	1
Training Unions organized -----	1

During this decade the number of baptisms increased, a few churches organized libraries, Gospel Center Church was organized and many of the churches built pastoriums and several added to their existing structures or built new ones. A few more of the churches moved into full-time preaching.

The decade 1961 through 1970 had many events of great importance taking place. These were years of great social upheaval and unrest in the world and unprecedented growth in industry and population in Brunswick County. This, of course, has had its impact upon the Brunswick Baptist Association.

Mrs. McRackan, because of a family situation, found it necessary to resign in 1965, and Rev. Henry L. Register was chosen to succeed her and came to the field in 1966. However, because of a severe heart attack, Rev. Register was forced to resign in 1968. His reports during those two years, showed a steady growth taking place, but with much still to be done. He challenged us to a greater measure of "Christianity" rather than "Churchanity" in his closing report to the association.

Gifts to all causes increased and this spirit of stewardship was reflected in our associational budgets each year. The Brunswick Association joined in the "30,000" movement of the Southern Baptist Convention and during these years Peace Memorial, Oak Island, Sunset Harbor, Temple, Calabash and Woodburn churches were organized and received into the Association. The Association now totals 38 churches.

As early as 1968, the Brunswick Association began to plan and prepare for "Shaping the Seventies" and a team representing all of the organizations went to Goldsboro, NC for extended and intensive training for the "Changes and Choices" that were to come early in the 70's, especially in the areas of grouping and grading and in the literature throughout the convention. It was only natural that when these changes came that some confusion would result, but under the leadership of our Associational Missionary, Rev. A. R. Waisner who came to serve in 1969, and the trained leaders in WMU, Brotherhood, Sunday School, Church Music and Church Training, the confusion subsided and progress began once again.

Rev. Arthur R. Waisner was well received by the Association. As pastor of Supply Baptist Church, he had experience in pastoral work and associational work and had become familiar with the work already in progress. Being familiar with the churches and the pastors of the association helped make the transition much smoother.

After lengthy discussions, the acceptance of a supply fee being paid by churches to the Associational Missionary was resolved when the Missions Committee and Rev. A. R. Waisner met, talked and decided that the Mission Committee should write Guidelines for the Missionary. This was presented to the Executive Committee at Sabbath Home Baptist Church on July 7, 1969.

The majority of the Association's business was conducted most efficiently by the Executive Committee which met quarterly at different churches. At each meeting committees met for 20 minutes and then each reported to the entire group. The Sunday School report

always reported growth and a successful Action Night Associationwide meeting. The Training Union and the Brotherhood were still struggling but yet, conducted "M" Night, with great success, and programs for the youth of the churches. In 1969 the terminology. Associational Missionary was used for the last time. The Associational Missionary is now known by the title DOM.

Several churches were applying to the Baptist State Convention for pastoral aid and church lot funding. In 1970 five churches asked for financial aid to pay their pastor for full time preaching and four churches asked for aid to purchase land and/or assistance in building additional worship space.

The Director of Missions, referred to as an aggressive leader, reported that we were experiencing the greatest period of expansion in our history. In 1972 as many as 13 churches were involved in building and expansion projects. That same year 23 churches participated in the Week of World Missions. Revivals were being held and many professions of faith and membership growth were recorded by our churches.

The first reference to a permanent home for the association came at the October 1, 1973 Executive Committee meeting at Mill Creek Baptist Church. Mr. Ira L. Chadwick, Chairman of the Missions Committee, made a motion to acquire at least one acre of land in the Supply area for the future home of the Baptist Association and the Director of Missions. A committee of three, Rev. Truette Rogers, Mr. James J. Hawes and Mr. Durbin S. Varnum was appointed to locate a proper site.

In 1973 the 75th Anniversary of the Brunswick Baptist Association was observed at the Annual Meeting. Four former Associational Missionaries, George W. H. White, Walter R. Moorehead, Margaret McRackan and Henry L. Register, were recognized. All but Walter R. Moorehead, who was ill, spoke of their experiences and their love for the people and the churches of the association.

Evangelism was the center of attention in 1974 and 1975. Plans to hold a countywide Evangelism Revival never came to fruition. On November 13, 1975 an Evangelism Conference was held at Shallotte First Baptist Church with Rev. Woodrow W. Robbins, a former pastor within the association, as guest speaker.

During 1976 churches continued requests for pastoral and church lot aid. There were three ordinations of pastors held. Being discussed again was the offer of one acre of land from Mrs. Evelyn Bell. There were possible problems with the relocation of U.S. Highway 17

and some special requests from Mrs. Bell.

The year 1977, was a year of numbers: 286 present for the Associational Church Training "M" Night, 16 churches represented at the Associational Youth Night, 89 in attendance at the VBS Clinic and 8,403 attended the World Missions Conference with 81 decisions for Christ. The Mission Rally that preceeded the conference was attended by 28 missionaries. Held at Supply Baptist Church it was hailed as a success and many lives were blessed by it.

Rev. Waisner announced in 1978 that tremendous growth had been reported by the churches. Four churches moved into new sanctuaries, six others in building programs and Mt. Olive Church had purchased land for a new building.

The VBS report was outstanding: 33 churches held schools with 2,308 enrolled, 36 professions of faith and 24 rededications. Mrs. Elsie Robbins, who retired as Interracial worker on July, 1978, held four mission schools: St. James, St. Mary's, St. John, Bethlehem AME churches. In contrast, associational finances were at an all time low ebb. A motion was made to recommend each church increase its giving by a minimum of \$100.00 a year.

At an Executive Committee Meeting, earlier in the year, Mr. Durbin Varnum, site committee member, reported on the diminsions and location of the proposed office site. The report was accepted and turned over to the Associational Trustees to continue deliberations with Mrs. Bell. At the October 3, 1978 meeting three restrictions and limitations set out in the deed by Mrs. Bell were read. She would not give the Association a clear title. Rev. J. Bryan Doshier made a motion to return the deed and easment. All present voted in the affirmative.

Mr. J. Tyler Potter, Jr., Associational Director of Brotherhood, gave a good report: leader workshops, two new organizations and two churches requested help with R. A. work and a jail ministry would soon begin.

After three years of investigating and study the Missions Committee recommended the Association deed the one acre site of the former Little Zoar Baptist Church to Farmer's Chapel Church at such time as a valid deed showing the Association's ownership is presented.

Boiling Spring Lakes First Baptist and Longwood Baptist Church dedicated new sanctuaries in 1979 and Gospel Center's new church sanctuary was almost completed. A very productive year was experienced. Town Creek, Mill Creek, Mt. Olive and Faith churches were in expansion programs to meet the growing population

needs.

The Executive Committee was well attended by pastors and laymen and continued to be a viable part of the Association. Reports were given by the committees and officers. Business was acted upon in a timely manner. It was evident by committee reports that they took advantage of state-led and association-led workshops and conferences.

The highlight of 1980 was the purchase of a home and the establishing of the Jennifer Brown Emergency Care Home. This was an effort to reach out with love and compassion for children in need. The Missions Committee was aware of the statement, "the Christian touch is love." Possible outreach ministries were under investigation and advisement. The most promising ministry was in the Sunset Beach area.

Mrs. Ouida Hewett, Senior Adult Coordinator, planned and conducted events to strengthen the fellowship among the older adults in the churches. Bus trips, conferences, workshops and craft classes were organized. Attendance was great and the enthusiasm was contagious as more and more adults got involved in the activities.

The Director of Missions, Rev. Arthur Waisner, stated in his 1982 report that during the past 14 years all of our 39 churches have either built new sanctuaries, educational buildings or added to their facilities. We thank God for every nail and board that has been added. Rev. Waisner continued by naming three of the highlights of the past year: our Simultaneous Revivals, final payment made on the Jennifer Brown Home and the Key Leadership Conference.

A special session of the Executive Committee was held November 1, 1982 to receive a report from the Associational Trustees on a proposed sale of the Achuck House. After discussion attorney E. J. Prevatte was instructed to prepare a deed of conveyance. The Associational Treasurer was directed to place all monies secured by the sale in an interest bearing savings account.

On January 10, 1983 the Executive Committee heard good reports. In attendance were 23 churches represented by 17 pastors and 39 laymembers. Rev. Bruce Cole, Church Training Director, reported 300 members from 13 churches attended "M" Night. Mr. Tyler Potter reported 22 churches had some portion of Brotherhood work in process.

Rev. James A. Whitworth, pastor of Supply Baptist Church, presented a motion asking for a committee to study the present and future needs of the Association within the next 10 years. Progress reports and recom-

mendations would be made at the 1984 Annual Meeting. At the next Executive Committee meeting, October 3, 1983, the Moderator announced that the Long Range Planning Committee had been formed. The Historian, in 1984, reported 39 churches, one mission and a preaching station. Churches indicated numerous people-centered activities in their reports. Goshen Church had a sign language interpreter during the worship service. Mill Creek Church had an intensive home visitation program for shut-ins. Mt. Olive Church had a preaching ministry at the county prison unit. New Life Church began a shut-in ministry and convalescent home ministry. Southport Church sponsored The Beach Road Mission.

The concept of an Associational Sunday School ASSISTeam came into being in 1980. The team trained teachers and assisted in developing an effective outreach program through the Sunday School. The ASSISTeam attended several training sessions and during 1984 conducted an associational workshop to promote the Sunday School work.

Discussing present and future possibilities of the ministry of the Association the Long Range Planning Committee presented a preliminary report at the 1984 Annual Meeting. Aware that Rev. Waisner would retire at the end of 1984, they asked for a continuation of the committee for one year. Recommendations to the messengers included acquiring property for an associational office, locate the Jennifer Brown Home in a new facility, provide a recreational area for use by the association and build a Director of Missions parsonage. The consolidation of all our ministries in a centralized location would enhance all facets of future work. Several suggestions for designing the building were offered including an Activities Building that could be used as an auditorium. The committee asked permission to begin a search for an appropriate parcel of land.

A new Associational Constitution was adopted at the Annual Meeting in 1984. The Missions Committee was restructured to include the key officers and leaders of the Association. Efforts of the committee were to focus on securing a Director of Missions, working with new or existing missions and the necessity of nurturing our existing churches.

In his final report as Director of Missions, Rev. A.R. Waisner, said these 17 years serving you had been a challenge, a demanding and fulfilling experience. The people of the Brunswick Baptist Association have a way of touching the very inner being of a person. My roots have grown very deep during these years, but, the time

comes to all of us when adjustments must be made. I shall always have a heart filled with love and gratitude for the people in the Brunswick Baptist Association.

Rev. Marvin Chapman was called as Interim Director of Missions on January 13, 1986 and was extended a fulltime call on July 14, 1986. During his tenure he and his family would experience the spirit of love, unity and cooperation as expressed by the association.

A lengthy report of findings and suggestions was given in 1986 by the Study Commission for the Brunswick Baptist Association Committee on Church Program Needs. Areas included: Church Leadership Training, Resort Ministry, Budget, Drug Abuse, Jennifer Brown Home, Music Ministry, Bivocational Support, Associational Communications and Director of Missions.

The Long Range Planning Committee planned and held "Miracle Sunday" on July 27, 1986 and collected over \$6,000.00. They recommended the term RESOURCE CENTER be used when referring to the associational property. Other suggestions were the establishment of a Planning and Building Committee and a Fund Raising Committee for the Resource Center.

The Study Commission, having made a full and complete examination of the Brunswick Baptist Associational leadership and leadership needs, made a recommendation toward reinvolvement of laity in associational leadership positions. We have become a "Preacher" association, meaning that most of our pivotal leadership are presently and for many years have been areas pastors. This commission discovers a high turnover in the Pastor/Associational leaders in the Brunswick Association. We feel that because of this high turnover many pastors are missing the pulsebeat of our associational needs. There needs to be a continuity and balance among our key leadership, thus, we suggest a prompt move to place responsible laity in these positions, even to include the associational moderator. The last layperson to serve as moderator was Mr. Kirby Sullivan in 1965. Furthermore, a reinvolvement of laity will certainly decrease the amount of strife and tension among pastors serving on sensitive committee issues.

Rev. Marvin Chapman, Director of Missions, saw The Brunswick Association as having massive potential. Being able to achieve some things together in the name of our Lord had blessed the lives of us all. Among the achievements in 1987 was the attitude of unity, cooperation and dedication to the Lord's work. Summer Resort Ministry, Adult Vacation Bible School, Key Lead

ership Conferences, prayer breakfast for world missions, the possibility of a Fruitland Bible Institute Extension Program, the associational choir and a "people search" to evaluate the need for starting new work were high points of Rev. Chapman's report.

A Sunday School emphasis was led by Mr. Charles Wagner from the Baptist State Convention for 17 churches and one mission. He spent 101 hours in 49 teaching sessions. The teaching opportunities reached 2,323 people.

In reflection, the Association has gone through several stages of development. First, there was the formation and establishment of the Association. Second, the building of a strong foundation based on Sunday School, Training Union, Prayer Meeting, WMU and Missions. Third, the spiritual development of the members of our churches through Vacation Bible School, Church Training, Youth programs and Key Leadership Conferences. Fourth, an extensive church building program. Fifth, reaching out to others in our county and community with Recreational programs, Resort Ministry, Jennifer Brown Home, Interracial programs and Conflict Management conferences. Sixth, around 1987, we began to reach out beyond the bounds of our association. Mr. Wayne Honeycutt represented the association in aiding the construction of a bridge in Togo. Dr. and Mrs. Paul Early returned to the mission field (Trinidad) in 1989. During 1990, Calvary Church sponsored Mr. Ced Brogden on a mission trip to Poland and Mrs. Gayla Varnum returned to Brazil on a mission trip. Rev. & Mrs. Jack Hancox, former missionaries, were involved in mission trips to Haiti and other islands in the Caribbean area.

A special emergency session of the Association was held on January 22, 1988 for the purpose of discussing the building and financing of the proposed Resource Center. In attendance were 23 pastors, 85 messenger and 35 visitors from the 31 churches represented. Mr. Richard Holbrook, Chairman of the Building Committee, told of seeking bids and plans drawn by the architect. Rev. V. C. Potter, Jr., Chairman of the Building Finance Committee, gave a financial report. By reading the minutes it was quite evident that the major emphasis of 1988 was the construction of the Resource Center.

At the Executive Board meeting on October 9, 1989 at Lebanon Baptist Church, the Missions Performance Group recommended that the Coastal Baptist Study Center, which originated October 4, 1988, be affirmed as a ministry sponsored by the association. Rev. Marvin Chapman asked that \$707.30 from the State Mis-

sions Offering be put into the Coastal Baptist Study Center Scholarship Fund.

Of interest is the Top Ten list included in the statistical tables. The Top Ten churches in membership were Southport, 710; Town Creek, 419; Sabbath Home, 402; Shallotte First, 380; Leland, 380; Ocean View, 376; Antioch, 354; Supply, 339; Jennies Branch, 331 and Elah, 330.

The '90's began with a "Here's Hope" training conference and prayer supper in January. These were great blessings to churches in their preparation for the revivals. During February there was a "Here's Hope" rally at Southport Baptist Church. The "Here's Hope" fellowship held at the Resource Center, on March 21, helped prepare the participant's hearts for revival. Most of the churches of the association held revival services during the "Here's Hope Jesus Cares For You" Simultaneous Revivals of March 18-April 29 resulting in many baptisms.

Throughout the remainder of the year churches and their members availed themselves of a VBS Clinic, Coastal Bible Study Center, Disciple Training Bible Drill (nine were state winners), Key Leadership Conference, working in a resort ministry, associational choir concert during the Fourth of July celebration, "Witness/Giving Life" Seminar, Sunday School Leadership Training Workshop, the first Deacon Workshop and Orientation and the Annual Associational Meeting of the WMU at Jennies Branch Church.

Most often we promoted and reported on the Associational Committees (some 20 committees reported at the Annual Meeting.) Yet, for many years there have been State and National Committee reports. These were: Biblical Recorder, Christian Action League, Baptist Retirement Homes, NC Baptist Assembly, NC Baptist Hospital, NC Baptist Foundation, Inc. The Christian Action League, Inc. serves as an avenue of information to the association on such moral and ethical issues as gambling, drunk driving, abortion, obscenity and teenage pregnancy.

As the associational programs and outreach activities grew there was more of a demand for more services from the Resource Center. Mrs. Elizabeth (Lib) Sellers had served as part time secretary since June, 1986. She resigned May 31, 1991. Mrs. Patricia Lewis, member of Antioch Church, was introduced as the new secretary at the July 15, 1991 Executive Board Meeting.

After Rev. Marvin Chapman's resignation February 15, 1992, Rev. William L. Smith was extended a

ciation serves as a resource agency designed to help strengthen the work of the local church and a channel through which the local church may choose to extend its mission. In his work as Director of Missions, he provided training opportunities to enable the churches to be more effective in their ministries, built fellowship among the churches to develop teamwork and unity and helped the churches discover immediate needs within the community and determine ways to meet those needs.

Historical events of 1993 included Beach Road Church hiring a part time Minister of Music and Minister of Youth and Education, Jennies Branch Church started Children's Church and Southport Church began a partnership with Ukraine. Brunswick Island Church was built with volunteers from North and South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. Seven churches made renovations and changes to their sanctuaries.

A highlight event of 1993 was the opportunity to collect enough money to send two octaves of handbells to Rev. Keith and Kathie Reynolds, foreign missionaries to Honduras. It seemed that the most excitement occurred within the area of missions. Mrs. Susan S. Carson, Historian, wrote that our churches responded generously to the calls for Disaster Relief in Florida, Louisiana and the Midwest. Several people traveled to other countries and other areas as volunteers in Missions, and the Brotherhood helped with the work at the Baptist Student Center at Pembroke. The Woman's Missionary Union participated in the Statewide ministry of supplying Christmas gifts for the inmates of the Women's Correctional Centers. The Brunswick Resort Ministry had a successful season. Bob and Jane Brown of the Southport Church were commissioned as Home Mission Volunteers and appointed as Area VI consultants through the Home Mission Service Corps.

From four days to one day. The first session was four days long. This continued until 1906. In 1907-1921 the Association held three day sessions. Beginning in 1992 the meetings lasted two days. Only during the war and the influenza epidemic did the Association hold 1 day sessions. At the Executive Board Meeting on July 11, 1993 at Elah Baptist Church, the Missions Performance Group recommended that the 1994 Annual Session be a one day event with an afternoon session (2-5 P.M.) and an evening session (7-9 P.M.) at Sabbath Home Church. This practice is currently in effect as of 1999.

Many activities for the youth of the churches were planned and were well-attended. Other strong programs were Recreation, Music, Sunday School ASSISTeam,

Evangelism and Discipleship Training.

Another year of opportunity for the association was 1994. Rev. Willaim L. Smith, Director of Missions along with the Mission Performance Group provided training for churches in the areas of Sunday School, Music Leadership, Brotherhood and Disaster Recovery for the Disaster Trailer, Youth, Recreation and Deacon Training. Outreach ministries involved Migrant Work, Resort Ministry and the idea of a Mobile Home Ministry. A Disaster Recovery Ministry was established and operated by the men of the Brotherhood.

On July 11, 1994 at the Executive Board meeting at Bolivia Church, the Chairman of the Missions Performance Committee presented a motion to hold a Centennial Celebration to commemorate the 100th year of the Association. Another motion by the Committee was to accept an offer of \$6,000 from the Home Mission Board and \$6,000 from the State Convention to help provide funds for an apprentice to start a new work in Calabash area.

For the first time the Association had a full time secretary at the Resource Center. Mrs. Patricia Lewis became a full time employee effective November 1, 1994. Another first was Gospel Center Church calling Rev. Doug Worley as a full time pastor. The church requested aid from the Baptist State Convention to supplement his salary.

Between January, 1995 and September, 1995 the churches of the association had the opportunity to participate in "Here's Hope 1995." There were two phases; first, "Here's Hope, Share Jesus Now" January - March 1995. This phase gave us the opportunity for 60 days of witnessing to share Christ with others. The second phase focused on Harvest Revivals March - September 1995. As of May, 1995 29 out of 43 churches reported 229 baptisms, 204 members by letters and 19 by statement.

A church planter apprentice, Rev. Ron and Susan Lewis of California, was called for the purpose of starting a new work at Calabash.

On January 9, 1995 the Association voted to purchase 10 acres of land adjacent to our existing property. A seven-member Long Range Planning Committee was appointed for the purpose of providing a plan to finance the property as well as setting goals for the future of the association.

The theme of the 1996 annual session was "Towards 2000...Reaching People for Jesus." The main focus of the year was the World Missions Conference. There were 24 churches that participated in the Confer-

ence from April 21-24, 1996. During the conference 10 foreign missionaries, 10 home missionaries and four state missionaries shared their experiences. Some 130 children were present at the Mission Fair on Sunday afternoon. The missionaries signed autograph books for the children and shared with them their specific work and calling.

During the year 1996 the Association voted to start a counseling center. On September 9, 1996 Dr. John Gray of the pastoral section of the N.C. Baptist Hospital started a two day center at the Resource Center.

Miss Tabitha Hickman, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, worked during the summer in the areas of Resort, Migrant and Backyard Bible Clubs ministries. Other ministries taking place in the association were Disaster Relief, Boot Camp personnel remodeling and building after the destruction of the hurricane, R. A. fishing tournament and Recreational activities for church and non-church members.

The business sessions at the 1997 Associational Meeting were full of a variety of items for discussion. Many new and innovative ideas were presented. First, the Brotherhood of Baptist Men asked for permission to erect a building on the property adjacent to the Resource Center for the purpose of housing the Disaster Recovery Trailer. The cost estimated to be approximately \$15,000.00. Second, the Missions Performance Committee, in a motion, asked the Moderator in conjunction with the Nominating Committee to recommend a study group of not more than six and not less than four persons to study the topic: "Women in the Pastorate as it Relates to Associational Work." Earlier in the year a church within the association had called a woman as pastor and some members of another church thought this was inappropriate and promised they would bring it before the messengers of the Annual Session. After discussion by the Missions Performance Group, a motion was written and presented to the messengers. The study group was to report to the Executive Board on April 13, 1997. Third, Rev. David Stratton, of the Missions Performance Group, made a motion that we accept the New Ebenezer Baptist Church into our association. They will be under our watchcare for one year with Beach Road Church as their sponsor. New Ebenezer Church is an African-American congregation now building a new church on U.S. Highway 211, the road between Supply and Southport. The pastor, Rev. Ronnie McCray, asked to become associated with the association because of what they were doing to help the people of the county.

Many hours of hard work were done by members of the Brotherhood. Some churches donated materials, furnishings and financial help.

Another paid employee, Rev. Jack Hancox, was added to the staff of the Association. He was called in July, 1997 to serve 20 hours a week as part time Missions Ministry Director. He will work with all the churches in developing outreach programs to better serve the community around them.

As part of the January 12, 1998 Executive Board meeting at Leland Church, Mr. Elias Jesse Prevatte was honored for his 60 years of service to the association. He has served three terms as moderator, as representative on the N.C. General Board, Associational Trustee and on many committees. He was instrumental in the acquiring of Fort Caswell for the Baptists of N.C. He served as Parliamentarian for several years. In the early '40's Mr. Prevatte helped organize Training Unions in various churches of the association. Several people spoke of his dedication, commitment and service to the Brunswick Baptist Association.

On April 13, 1998 at Faith Baptist Church, Dr. Paul D. Early, Chairman of the Study Committee, read the resolution for the majority concerning "Women in Ministry". Rev. Robert L. Brown read a substitute resolution for the minority. After discussion the vote taken on the substitute resolution failed. The original resolution was approved by the majority of the members of the Executive Board.

At the same meeting \$500.00 was donated to help support the Christian MotorCycle Association called "Knights of the Lite."

Beach Road Church was the location of the July 13, 1998 Executive Board meeting. Rev. David Stratton brought a motion on behalf of the Brotherhood concerning plans for the building for the Disaster Recovery Trailer. Previously, the association had approved acquiring funds for the construction of a building. A site plan and floor plan were presented for approval. An affirmative vote followed.

A new staff member, Dr. Gary Brown, has been added to the Counseling Center. The Counseling Center is working on establishing preventative programs and acquiring grants to support them.

Rev. Jack Hancox, Director of Missions Development, reported to the Executive Board which met October 12, 1998 at Shallotte First Church. Representatives from 28 churches were at the meetings to plan and promote the different outreach ministries of the churches.

The Habitat for Humanity House on Oak Island, Calvary Church's Tail Gate Ministry at West Brunswick High School, Providence Home (a teen crisis shelter), Hospice Training and other ministries were announced.

The year, 1999, began with a positive report from Rev. Hancox, Director of Missions Development. There are 45 ministries going on in our churches, the jail ministry being a strong program. New Ebenezer Church was accepted as a member church, in full fellowship, of the Association on April 12, 1999.

Rev. Ronnie McCray, pastor, and the congregation have worked hard to purchase land and build a new facility. Currently 20-30 members meet for Bible study and worship. The Baptist State Convention, in partnership with the Association, has also helped with financial support of the church and pastor. Recently Rev. Tom Womble, chief operation officer of the Baptist State Convention, presented a check to the church to help with the new church's building expenses. Dedication services were held on Sunday, April 20, 1999 with Rev. Ray Webb, pastor of Beach Road Church, as guest speaker.

Preparation of the site for the Disaster Recovery building began in May. With permits and elevation surveys completed the foundation and plumbing are next. Rev. William L. Smith, Director of Missions, commented that this is an exciting time for the Association and especially for our Baptist men. With everyone's assistance, financially, prayerfully, and physically, this ministry tool will soon be a reality.

Linda Hart joined the staff of the Counseling Center during May, 1999. A clinical social worker, she will work with children, adolescents and adults.

The summer of 1999 was a busy time in the lives of the churches. Mt. Pisgah Church was host to the first Associational Acteen Celebration. Brunswick Islands Church began collecting items and supplies for "Operation Christmas Child." Vacation Bible Schools were held in the majority of the churches. The young people of Southport Church participated in a Youth Mission Camp. A community worship service, "Of Thee I Sing" was held by Southport Church during the July 4th celebration. A father/son retreat was held at Fort Caswell Baptist Assembly. Mission developments highlights included acquiring a double-wide trailer for use as a chapel for the Migrant-Hispanic Ministry and continuing the three preaching services at the county jail. A Transition House for former inmates is a big prayer concern. The Helping Hands ministry of Antioch Church continues to grow, distributing about a 150 hot meals two Saturdays each

month. A new and exciting outreach ministry Block Party is being developed by Supply Church. They will make contact with residents who live in residential areas around the church. Soon to be available will be a Mentoring Training Ministry to train people to do mentoring in the Brunswick Learning Center. In the planning stages is the Baptist Student Union Ministry planned for Brunswick Community College. This will provide a Christian ministry for students of the college. Outreach seems to be the watch word of the Association. Reaching out to people through love helps keep the gospel message alive.

Jennies Branch Church was the host church for the Annual Meeting on October 22, 1999. Rev. Michael Cummings, President of the Baptist State Convention, was speaker at the afternoon session.

October 23, 1999 was the day of celebrating the centennial of the Association. The festivities were held at the Odell Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Brunswick Community College in Supply, NC. Music was by the associational choir. Several vignettes, reflecting different periods of time, were presented to illustrate the development of the Association. Dr. Roy Smith, former Executive-Director of the Baptist State Convention, was the featured speaker. We looked back as well as ahead through worship and fellowship. Rev. William Smith wrote the following for his column in the NETWORK, the newsletter of the association. Just think, 100 years of Baptist churches in Brunswick County ministering together to the physical and spiritual needs of people in our communities and elsewhere. Praise the Lord for all He has accomplished through us and what He will accomplish in the future as we continue to serve Him.

Our Director of Missions, best summarized the mission of the association in his report to the 1996 Annual Meeting. "The Brunswick Baptist Association has the greatest opportunity to reach people for Jesus than any time in history. Brunswick County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. People are coming from everywhere to settle here. We have a golden opportunity to share Jesus with them through Bible study, preaching, good fellowship and witnessing. Jesus gave us the Great Commission for the purpose of sharing His love with others. It was not a suggestion, it was a command. As Brunswick Baptist we have a responsibility to help others who come our way to know Jesus as their Savior. As we approach the year 2000 our goal should be to share Jesus with every person that will allow us to

do so. As we look toward the future, we need to evaluate the past, organize and plan for that which God would have us do and be in the future. If we do not plan for tomorrow then we will not be ready for tomorrow. We are standing at a critical time in history and we should ask ourselves the question, "What will the future generation say about us?" The greatest question to ask, "Is God pleased with what we are doing for His Kingdom in the Association?" Many good things have been accomplished in the Association but we should never feel as if we have arrived or God's work is completed. We should always strive to do and be better."

In retrospect, it appears that over the past 100 years, we have not strayed from the original design and purposes set forth by the founding fathers of the Brunswick Baptist Association. Therefore, let us pray that we will be strong in the Spirit and bound together by the bonds of love to uphold and maintain our goodly heritage.



Mrs. Elizabeth (Lib) Sellers,
part-time secretary, 1986-1991.



Mrs. Patricia Lewis, full-time secretary, 1991-present.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST 100 YEARS

- Nov. 30, 1899 Ten churches met at (Old) Shallotte Baptist Church in the first annual session of the Brunswick Baptist Association. The session lasted four days.
- Nov. 9, 1901 The Executive Committee divided the county into two missionary districts and appointed Rev. D. P. Robbins and Rev. B. G. Early as missionaries.
- Nov. 7, 1902 The first annual session of the Women's Missionary Society met at the school house near Jennies Branch Church. Mrs. David Ward, Associational Vice President, presided. Four societies were represented.
- Oct. 21, 1906 After the report on Temperance Bros. J. C. Mizell and D. L. Hewett were appointed as a committee to memorialize the next General Assembly of NC to make drunkenness a crime.
- Oct. 16, 1907 J. M. Long, writing the report on Prayer Meetings, earnestly recommended that our pastors insist that all their churches have well-attended weekly prayer meetings. The next night an associational prayer meeting was held at the church, with good results, we trust. The purpose was to urge prayer meetings in all our churches. Meeting was led by Rev. D. L. Hewett. A collection was taken for the poor, amounting to \$3.25.
- Oct. 14, 1908 Isaac Milliken, in his Sunday School report, asked that every church in the bounds of the Association have a well regulated Sabbath School. In doing so the churches will prosper as one of the Lord's planting.
- an., 1909 The Baptist Sunday School Convention was organized at Mill Creek Church.
- Oct. 19, 1912 Resolution adopted that organized a pastor's institute to meet at least once a year for the purpose of gaining information relative to the duties as ministers and pastors.
- Oct. 15, 1915 The Orphanage report by O.B. Sellers proposed that the income of one day, referred to as "work" day, be sacredly set aside, at or near Thanksgiving Day, and devoted to Thomasville and Kennedy Home. There are 500 children currently in the orphanage.
- Oct. 28, 1917 The President's Proclamation calling on all peoples to observe today as a day of prayer for the success of the cause of the Allies in this great world war and the safety of the American army was read. A special prayer followed.
- Nov. 16, 1918 The 20th Annual Session was held with Prospect Church. The meeting had been changed to this date on account of the prevalence of influenza. Only a one-day session was held with 14 churches represented.
- Oct. 25, 1924 On motion, Rev. J. A. Mintz, John Jenrette and V. C. Garner were appointed as a committee to visit the Dock association and ask that the two Associations unite under the name "Brunswick-Dock Association."
- Oct. 22, 1925 Three reports, State, Home and Foreign Missions, were discussed under the heading of the Unified Program. Since the first meeting the Association has placed a strong emphasis on missions.

- Oct. 21, 1926 Miss Lillian Mabry, Sunday School worker, reported a deep interest in the S.S. and B.Y.P.U. work. The Executive Committee had met on Feb. 6, to discuss plans for cooperating with the State Sunday School Board in securing a whole time worker for the Association.
- A committee was appointed to draft a suitable resolution in memory of Rev. J.A. Mintz, first moderator who died October 27, 1925.
- Oct. 25, 1928 Camp Mabry, with 248 enrolled, was held at Holden's Beach.
- On motion, the Association assumed the obligation of raising \$2,000.00 for the Cooperative Program for 1929 and the same be apportioned out to the churches by the Executive Committee.
- In as much as the time of meeting seems to be fixed by custom as Thursday and Friday after the third Sunday in October and where no rule can be found in the Constitution therefore be it resolved that the Brunswick Association meet on these days each year at 10:00 A.M.
- Oct. 23, 1930 For several years reports have been given on the Baptist Hospital, Ministerial Relief and Annuity, Biblical Recorder and Christian Education.
- Visitors frequently included college presidents, the Executive Secretary of the Baptist State Convention and representatives of the various agencies of the convention. Each would report to the assembly.
- A budget committee was appointed to work out plans to finance the needs of the Association.
- Oct. 23, 1931 The Executive Committee reported that they had been successful in reducing the indebtedness of the Association from \$88.82 to \$30.00 and that this amount is being looked after by members of the committee and believe it will be paid because of the efforts put forth by the committee.
- Oct. 21, 1932 Report on Every Member Canvass made by Rev. R. E. Sentelle and after remarks it was adopted.
- Oct. 25, 1934 A collection was taken for the benefit of the United Dry Forces amounting to \$4.96.
- Article 9 of the Constitution was changed so the Association could appoint an Executive Promotion Committee consisting of one member from each church. The purpose of this committee shall be to cooperate with the State Mission Board to transact all business during the intervals of the sessions of the Association.
- Oct. 20, 1938 The Association pledged to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention and the State Baptist Convention in an evangelistic campaign to make every effort to reach the lost and to give special attention to any community that may be without a church or Sunday School.
- Oct. 21, 1942 Guests included M. S. Huggins, Secretary State Convention; R. D. Covington, Mills Home; R. S. Satterfield, Meredith College; Dr. J. W. Lowe, Foreign Mission Board and Dr. Smith Hagaman, Baptist Hospital.
- It was ordered that the Association hold only a one day session during the war emergency and one annual session after the emergency is over, and that the day be divided into a morning, afternoon and evening session for the transaction of the business of the Association.

- Oct. 18, 1944 The Association adopted a plan to participate in the Southern Baptist Convention "Centennial Evangelistic Crusade" by leading every church to hold at least one service of protracted evangelistic meetings in the church and one outside the church.
- Oct. 2, 1945 The Executive Committee recommended to return to the two day sessions and to meet one day in the western part of the county.
- A prayer of thanksgiving to God for the termination of this great war and the return of our men.
- Oct. 24, 1946 All 24 church clerks were commended for sending in their church letters before the meeting.
- The Executive Committee recommended that the Association have a one day Spring Meeting with the emphasis on Devotional and Religious training and a program to best fit the needs of the young people.
- Oct. 23, 1947 Rev. George W. H. White gave his first report as Associational Missionary, visiting 13 of the 25 churches and preaching 72 sermons.
- Oct. 21, 1948 An extensive report was given by Rev. Walter R. Moorehead, Associational Missionary. After the report he was extended an indefinite call.
- Oct. 19, 1949 The moderator's report included restructuring the Executive Committee, establishing a bank credit to avoid embarrassment in meeting financial obligations, publishing of a monthly newsletter and having the night session of the first day be a special program for the youth of our churches.
- Oct. 18, 1950 John Jenrette was honored for 28 years of service as Clerk of the Association.
- Oct. 8, 1952 Mrs. Margaret McRackan was hired as Associational Missionary.
- Oct. 21, 1953 Prospect Church is the mission church of the year giving \$394.19 to missions or 46.96 % of the total gifts for the year. Other churches recognized were Lebanon in 1954, Prospect in 1955 and 1956, Lebanon in 1957 and Supply in 1958 and 1959.
- Oct. 20, 1954 The Sunday School theme was "A Million More in '54."
- Oct. 19, 1955 The Royal Ambassador program is taken over by the Brotherhood Department. Previously it was a program of the WMU.
- Oct. 25, 1956 H.L. Clemmons continued to promote his special concern for associational missions by asking the churches to take a special offering during December. Each year he spoke of this issue after which an offering would be taken.
- Oct. 23, 1957 New reporting areas are Caswell Assembly, Home for the Aging, Brotherhood Music, Evangelism and Audio Visuals.
- Mar. 15, 1959 There were twenty-two churches which participated in the nationwide simultaneous Evangelistic Crusade.
- Mar. 5, 1962 Edwin Clemmons was named Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Builders Club, a committee whose purpose was to purchase or aid in purchasing lots, aid in the erection of churches and Sunday Schools and to improve needy existing ones.

- Oct. 20, 1962 Newly-adopted Constitution changed the structure of the Executive Committee to one member from each church.
- Oct. 20, 1965 Minutes dedicated to Mrs. Margaret McRackan who served 13 years as Associational Missionary.
- Mrs. Ressie R. Whatley retired after 16 years as Associational Treasurer.
- Oct. 19, 1966 Rev. Henry L. Register was elected as Associational Missionary. He located the first associational office in a building owned by J. J. Hawes. The building still stands in Supply, NC.
- Miss Ruth Galloway is elected as Associational Treasurer.
- Nov. 4, 1968 Rev. A. R. Waisner is recommended to be called as Associational Missionary. He was hired on Jan. 1, 1969.
- Mar. 29, 1971 The Missions Committee recommends that the Association rent a building, owned by Rev. Waisner and located adjacent to his present dwelling in Shallotte, to be used as the associational office.
- Oct. 19, 1972 Resolution passed in opposition to Liquor By The Drink and All Drugs. This is to be published in the newspapers. Another resolution stated that we do not believe in alien baptism but baptism by immersion.
- Oct. 22, 1976 Miss Sara Ann Hobbs, State Director of the W.M.U., delivered the Doctrinal message.
- Oct. 20, 1978 Mrs. Elsie Robbins resigned her position with the General Baptist Convention. For 18 years she worked with the Interracial Program teaching Vacation Bible School and training workers.
- Oct. 15, 1980 John and Mary Small moved into the Jennifer Brown Emergency Care Home to assume leadership as house parents.
- Dec. 31, 1985 Rev. A.R. Waisner retires as Director of Missions.
- Jul. 15, 1986 Rev. Marvin Chapman is called as Director of Missions. He established an office in the old Red and White Grocery Store in Bolivia, NC.
- Mr. John W. Butler retires after 20 years as Associational Clerk.
- Oct. 23, 1987 The Association adopted the new organizational structure, suggested by the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist State Convention, in order to be in a position to use current organizational terms and to better do the work of the Association. The Director of Missions answered questions about the duties of officers and committees under the new organizational design and stated that a job description would be distributed to all officers and committee members.
- Mar. 13, 1988 Groundbreaking services were held for the construction of the Resource Center.
- Aug. 21, 1998 Dedication service for the Resource Center held at Supply Baptist Church.
- Feb. 15, 1992 Rev. Marvin Chapman resigns as Director of Missions.

- Sept. 9, 1996 The Brunswick Counseling Service began with Dr. John Gray as pastoral counselor.
- Jan. 12, 1998 Mr. Elias Jesse Prevatte was honored for more than 60 years of service.
- Apr. 13, 1998 A study committee, appointed to address the question of women in the ministry, presented a resolution to the Executive Committee. The members voted to not exclude a church from the Association based on the report.
- Apr. 12, 1999 New Ebenezer Baptist Church was the first African-American Church to become a member of the Association. It was established as a mission of Beach Road Baptist Church.
- May, 1999 Construction of Disaster Recovery building began.
- Oct. 23, 1999 Centennial Celebration held at Odell Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Brunswick Community College. Dr. Roy Smith, retired Executive Director & Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention was the speaker.



Issac Jenrette, Associational Clerk 1899-1907, Moderator 1917 and 1920, member of Long Branch Church.



Issac Milliken, Associational Treasurer 1899-1902, member of (Old) Shallotte Church.



Jennies Branch Church, organized 1895.

CHURCHES IN AND RELATING TO THE BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION

Many of the churches in the extreme southeast coastal region of North Carolina which were affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention belonged prior to 1895 to an earlier Brunswick Association, which was in existence from 1886-94. In 1894 this association, after considerable debate, accepted a proposal from the Cape Fear Association to unite the two associations, and the following churches joined Cape Fear Association; Beulah, Chapel Hill, Friendship, Long Branch, Magnolia, Mill Creek, New Britton, New Life, Poley's Bridge, Prospect, Shallotte, Shiloh, and Soldier Bay. In the early months of 1899 the Cape Fear Association and the Columbus Association united to form the Cape Fear-Columbus Association. At the first annual joint session of this newly created association, Beulah, Soldier Bay, Jennies Branch, Poley's Bridge, Mill Creek, Shallotte, Prospect, Shiloh, Oak Grove, and Mt. Pisgah were, at their request, granted letters of dismissal to form a separate association. These churches, with the exception of Shiloh, met at Shallotte Church a few months after their dismissal and organized the present Brunswick Association.

Since the organization of the new Association the changes in its membership have been numerous. Newly constituted churches accepted into the Association have included: Cool Run in 1905; Regan and Farmers Chapel in 1908; Mount Olive and Bolivia in 1913; Sabbath Home in 1933; and Longwood in 1939. Happy Home, admitted in 1910; Brunswick, admitted in 1911; and Zion, listed for the first time in 1920; were also probably newly constituted. Friendship, admitted in 1916, was created by the uniting of Long Branch and Regan churches. All other churches admitted to the Association came from the Cape Fear-Columbus Association. These churches were Antioch, Camp Branch, Chapel Hill, Lebanon, Little Zoar, Myrtle Branch, New Life, New Britton, Southport, Bethel, Shiloh, Long Branch, Town Creek; Seven Creeks; and Goshen.

Since its organization the Association has lost several churches, eight of which united with Dock Association, namely, New Life, around 1916; Poley Bridge and Seven Creeks in 1916; New Britton in 1921; Happy Home and Soldier Bay, 1922; and Camp Branch and Zion in 1923. (Old) Shallotte, dismissed from the Brunswick Association in 1922 to unite with Dock Association, can-

not be considered as a loss since it was received back into Brunswick Association in 1938. The remaining four churches simply ceased to be reported as members of the Association and probably became defunct near the date they were last reported. Those churches, with the dates of the minutes in which they were last reported, are Shiloh, 1901; Little Zoar, 1908; Brunswick, 1916; and Silent Grove, 1931.

Some interesting facts and general information about these churches and some churches no longer in the association follows:

Bowden Memorial (est. 1954) was located in the Malmo area. Rev. Walter G. Phelps was the first pastor. The church was not listed after the 1966 minutes. Some members continued as Community Chapel Baptist Church.

Brunswick (est. 1911) was the name of Mill Creek Church for about six years. The 1911 Annual Meeting was held here. A new building was dedicated in 1911 with Rev. J. C. Mizell as pastor.

Bryan's Chapel (est. 1852) is now known as Goshen Baptist Church. The name was changed in 1887. The first building had an auditorium and gallery.

Caison's Chapel (est. 1891) was the original name of Oak Grove Baptist Church from 1891 until 1895. Rev. E. L. Swain was the first pastor. The first building was destroyed by fire.

Calabash (est. 1959) Mission has been an object of work for the Association for many years. Constituted in 1969 as Calabash First Baptist, the name was changed to Caldwell Memorial upon the death of the pastor, Earl L. Caldwell. In 1978 the name was changed back to Calabash First. After failing to remain a church, mission work began under the name of Cornerstone. On July 13, 1998 the name was changed again to the present name of Carolinas Baptist Fellowship Church to reflect the membership which lives both in North Carolina and South Carolina. The church was disbanded July 12, 1999.

Camp Branch (est. prior to 1888) is located off Highway 211 near the Brunswick/Columbus County line. It was a member of the Association from 1900-1922.

Chapel Hill (est. 1837) changed its name to Shallotte First Baptist Church in 1954.

Cheerful Hope (est. 1839) was a branch of Livingston Creek Baptist Church. Both churches were

located near the Brunswick/Columbus County line. It was active with other Brunswick County churches in the Cape Fear Association.

Cool Run (est. 1904) was formed when a group from (Old) Shallotte moved to the new Starboard Schoolhouse. The land was donated by J. H. Fletcher Frink. The church became extinct in 1954.

Elm Grove (est. 1888) was a member of the South Atlantic Association. First pastor was Rev. J. M. Long. It was apparently located in the northwest area of Brunswick County near Ash or Longwood. The church was not listed in the minutes after 1890.

Fellowship (est. 1981) was made up of some members of the Mill Creek Church. Rev. Leo Cannon was the pastor. They reported one baptism. It disbanded in 1983 due to unforeseen circumstances.

Fellowship (est. 1991) is located near Kingtown in Waccamaw Township. First pastor was Rev. Clarence Richardson. Admitted to the Association in 1993 and withdrew fellowship from the Association in 1998.

Friendship (est. 1888) was located on the Old Georgetown Road. Jabesh Frink and Rev. J. M. Long, early leaders in the Association, are buried in the Friendship/Frink Cemetery near Calabash. When the church became extinct memberships were moved to other churches in the area such as Long Branch and Old Shallotte.

Friendship (est. 1985) was located in Leland. The Association took it under watchcare in 1985 but the church dissolved in 1986. Rev. George E. Price was the pastor.

Green Swamp Union (est. 1869) was admitted to the Cape Fear Association in 1869 with 24 members. First pastor was Rev. Nathan Milliken. Later changed name to Camp Branch Baptist Church.

Happy Home (est. 1910) joined the Brunswick Association in 1910. The church is located in Columbus County and the first pastor was Rev. Christenberry Milligan. The church was dismissed to the Dock Association in 1922.

Holden Beach Baptist Mission (est. 1991) was sponsored by Antioch Baptist Church. Accepted into the Association in 1993. Today is known as Brunswick Islands Baptist Church.

Howell's Point Mission (est. 1954), a mission of Antioch Baptist Church, met in the Sunset Harbor area. The name was changed to Sunset Harbor First Baptist when the church was constituted in 1968.

Juniper Creek (est. ca 1878) was located near

Ash. Rev. Nathan Milliken was the first pastor. Membership was 15. Ceased to be a church sometime after 1885.

Leland (est. 1925) joined the Association in 1947, coming from the Wilmington Association. Delegates were A. H. Gainey, Herbert Peterson and Garland Bordeaux. The church withdrew fellowship from the Association in 1998.

Little Zoar (est. prior to 1888) in 1900 presented a letter of dismissal from the Cape Fear/Columbus Association to join the Brunswick Association. In 1904 Rev. D. L. Hewett was paid \$7.66 for service as the missionary to the church. He made six trips to the church. Rev. G. T. Hickman made three trips and received \$2.85 and Rev. E. L. Swain made two trips and received \$2.16. Aid was sent in 1905 and 1908. In 1909 the Executive Board ordered that Rev. A. W. Clemmons be paid \$25.00 as a supplement to his salary. A portion of the membership left the church about 1907-1908 and formed Farmer's Chapel Baptist Church.

Livingston Creek (est. 1756) and Lockwood Folly were the two earliest churches in Brunswick County. It is the parent church of many other Baptist churches in southeastern North Carolina. Last listed as Livingston Creek in 1816 minutes. Later known as Livingston Chapel.

Lockwood Folly Meeting House (est. 1756) was known by this name until 1800. It was constituted as an arm of New River Baptist Church in Onslow County. In 1800 a portion of the congregation withdrew and organized Mill Creek Baptist church and the remaining members changed the church's name to Mt. Pisgah.

Long Branch (est. 1884) joined the Brunswick Association in 1899. First pastor was Rev. George Honet. The first Associational Clerk, Issac Jenrette, was a member of the church. They always reported a membership between 55 and 78. United with Regan Church to form Friendship Baptist Church in 1916.

Lovely Springs (est. 1894) was admitted to the Brunswick I Association in 1894. Rev. Lorenzo Sellers was the first pastor and G. W. Murrill of Bolivia was Clerk. Last reported as a church in 1898.

Magnolia (est. 1892) was a member of the South Atlantic, Brunswick I and Cape Fear Associations. Admitted to the South Atlantic Association in 1892. Delegates were Rev. Vance Simmons and J. F. Simmons. Clerk was Laspier Long and the pastor was Rev. J. H. Long. Most likely located near Ash.

Mathew's Chapel (est. 1884) A deed (BK, EE,

PG 134) from Mathew Jordan and wife to W.A. Skipper, A. J. Watson and J. T. Benton, Trustees of Mathew's Chapel, gave one acre for the use and benefit of the white race for a Missionary Baptist Church. The land is close to Farmer's Chapel and Little Zoar churches.

Monk's Branch Station (est. ca 1872) was listed as a preaching station in the 1873 Cape Fear Association. They gave \$3.15 to associational missions.

Myrtle Branch Station (est. 1873) presented a letter of dismissal from the Cape Fear/Columbus Association. The first building was located on the Old Fayetteville Road. It became Elah Baptist Church in 1903.

New Britton (est. 1818) is located at Kingtown near Ash, NC. It presented a letter of dismissal from the Cape Fear/Columbus Association in 1900 to join the Brunswick Association. The church was dismissed to the Dock Association in 1921. They are still an active church.

Ocean View (est. 1949) joined the Association in 1949. Rev. T. F. Johnson of Bolivia was the first pastor. The church withdrew fellowship from the Association in 1998.

Old Shallotte (est. 1837) was the site of the first associational meeting in 1899. The church, previously known as Shallotte, changed its name to Old Shallotte in 1954. Rev. J. A. Mintz, first associational moderator, was pastor in 1899.

Poley Bridge (est. 1885) is located in Columbus County and began in an old schoolhouse on the Whiteville/Reaves Ferry Road. It was an original member of the Brunswick Association. Still an active church in the Dock Association.

Regan (est. 1908) joined the Association in 1908. First clergyman was Rev. G. W. Stanley. Church membership between 29-43 members. United with Long Branch in 1916 to form Friendship Baptist Church.

Service-By-The-Sea (est. 1984) was admitted on Oct. 25, 1985 under the watchcare of the Association upon recommendation of the Missions Committee. The ministry began as a campground ministry at Holden's Beach about 1982. It was constituted as a church in September, 1984. Average attendance was 54 and average weekly offering of \$54.10. Rev. Henry Thompson was the pastor.

Seven Creeks (est. 1803) was a branch of the Lockwood Folly Meeting House. The church, near Pireway in Columbus County, was a member of the Brunswick Association from 1903-1916.

Shell Landing (est. 1972) was begun by several members of Sabbath Home Church. It met in what is now Bellamy's Net Shop near Holden Beach. The church existed for about two years.

Shiloh (est. 1872) was located on the Old Georgetown Road between Supply and Bolivia. Membership ranged between 20 to 30 members. Rev. A. A. Edwards reported to the 1873 Cape Fear Association meeting that "All in peace." In 1893 the minutes record that many of the members of the church are living at the county home and are paupers of the county. The Associational Mission Fund of \$1.80 was paid to Rev. D. L. Hewett, pastor. The church became inactive in 1903.

Silent Grove (est. 1876) has located near Holden Beach beside the Silent Grove Cemetery. First clergyman was Rev. Nathan Milliken. In 1907 the church asked the Association to take them under watchcare until a letter of dismissal could be gotten from the Cape Fear/Columbus Association. The church, with a membership between 25-30, became inactive and ceased to be a church after 1933.

Smithville (est. 1870), now Southport Baptist Church, was known by this name from 1870-1889. It was constituted as a branch of Bethel Baptist Church and operated as a mission station, 1871-1872.

South Brunswick Baptist Mission (est. 1985) was located in the Sunset Beach/Calabash area. Rev. W.A. Barnhill was the mission pastor. In 1986 it became known as Bonaparte Baptist Church with Rev. Tom Walton as the first pastor.

Stanley Road (est. 1984) was admitted to the Association in 1988. Began as a campground ministry at Holden Beach led by Rev. Henry Thompson, pastor. Known as Service-By-The-Sea Baptist Church in 1985. Disbanded in 1991.

Sturgeon Creek (1880) On April 20, 1880 a deed from John Nelson and wife, Kate, was given to Trustees, M. P. White, Harvey J. Williams and Wesley Skipper, for a Baptist Church of Sturgeon Creek for the purpose of building a house of worship. The church did not become functional and the deed reverted to the owners. This was before Old Elah (Myrtle Beach) was formed. The site was located where the Morman church now stands on the Old Fayetteville Road.

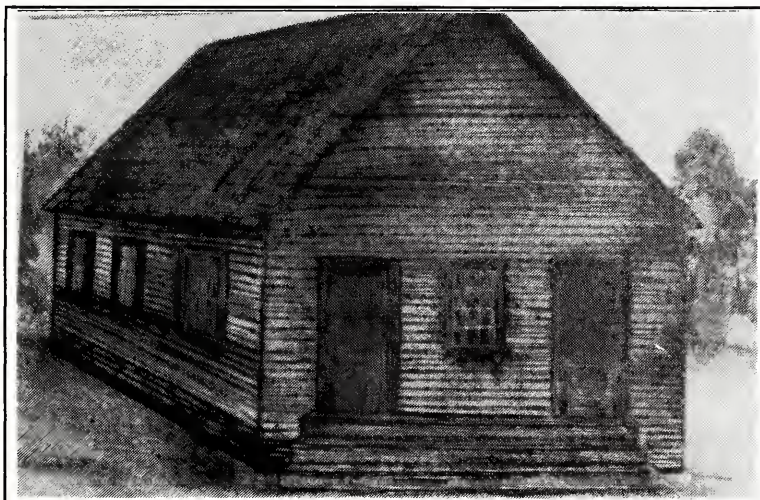
Summerville (est. 1918) was active for less than three years. The only statistics available reported a WMU and a Sunbeam Band with Rev. R. S. Lennon as president.

Temple (est. 1963) was located in Shallotte. Admitted to the Association in 1964. Disbanded in 1983 with members joining other Baptist churches. Today Grace Baptist Church meets in the same building.

Zion (est. 1919), located on Highway 130 between Shallotte and Ash, was a member of the Brunswick Association from 1919 to 1923. When it was dismissed to the Dock Association. Rev. J.K. Todd was the first pastor.



Cool Run Church, 1904-1965



Long Branch Church, 1884-1916



Calabash Church, 1959-1999



Stanley Road Church, 1984-1999



Shiloh Church, 1872-1903

ACHUCK HOME

On January 5, 1981 the Association received the deed for a home and property in Sunset Harbor from Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Achuck of New York City, New York. Ideas for its use centered around a Family Enrichment Center, a recreational area for church groups or a retreat for study or workshops. Mrs. Maxine Fulcher, member of Southport Baptist Church, moved into the home in order to serve as hostess and to schedule events. In 1987 the home was sold and the money used to help finance the building of the Resource Center.

JENNIFER BROWN EMERGENCY YOUTH CARE HOME

During October, 1980 the Jennifer Brown Emergency Youth Care Home opened under the auspices of the Baptist Children's Homes. Serving as first house parents and director were John and Mary Small. Other house parents have been Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Zobie Garner and Mr. and Mrs. Faircloth.

The shelter provided care for up to 90 days for children needing placement as a result of a sudden crisis or difficulty arising at home. Licenses were sought to serve up to five children between ages 3 and 18.

The home, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jenrette Brown, was named in memory of their 16 year old Jennifer who was one of three teenagers killed in an automobile accident. The home was in service from January 3, 1981 to December, 1986. During this time it housed 93 children from 26 countries.



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COASTAL BAPTIST BIBLE STUDY CENTER

On October 4, 1988 Fruitland Extension classes began and ran through December 17, 1988 at the Resource Center. Later this program was known as Coastal Baptist Bible Study Center. Enrolled during the first session were 70 students, representing 45 churches from 8 associations. John Marcus Sellers, a member of Elah Baptist church, was the first student to enroll for classes. The school, for pastors and laity living in Region 3, is a cooperative ministry of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, the Baptist State Convention, the Seminary External Education Division of the Southern Baptist Convention and is sponsored by the Brunswick Baptist Association.

COUNSELING SERVICE

In 1996 the Association began a mission to bring counseling with a spiritual emphasis to county residents by hiring a certified pastoral counselor to work at the Resource Center.

Brunswick Counseling Services serves as a place where those seeking guidance can discuss their problems with a trained therapist in a confidential atmosphere. An aspect of the program is to change the negative stigma associated with counseling.

Rev. David Stratton, Moderator of the Association, said the center has fulfilled a need in the community. For a number of years, many have been concerned that as one of the fastest growing areas on the east coast we have few counseling resources.

A team from the Baptist State Convention visited in the fall of 1995 and found that people expressed their desires to have more counseling resources. As a result, it was decided to enter into a partnership with NC Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC.

Pastoral counselor and North Carolina native, Dr. John Gray was living in Kentucky and looking for a chance to move back to his state. After getting in touch with Baptist Hospital about possible job openings he learned of the position and moved into the office on September 19, 1996.

A regular fee for a session is charged but each client is able to negotiate a fee in keeping with his or her financial resources and the availability of subsidies. The goal is not to turn anyone away due to financial reasons.

Our vision is that this will become a full-time center and perhaps even a multi-staff center. The desire of the Advisory Board is that this will be a community ministry.

DISASTER RECOVERY

On October 24, 1998 ground was broken for a new building to house the Association's disaster recovery trailer. Brunswick County Baptist men began in 1993 planning for a new ministry that would provide assistance to persons in need.

On May 24, 1994 the ministry became a reality with delivery of the trailer.

Since the arrival of the recovery trailer hundreds of men and women have been involved in hurricane recovery efforts in Miami, Florida; Charleston, South Carolina; Cape Hatteras and Wilmington and have responded to floods in Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Georgia and western North Carolina.

In addition, since the summer of 1996 the Association has been able to help about one hundred families in Brunswick County. This help included everything from building a ramp for the handicapped to painting and repairing a floor or putting a new roof on a house. Each job is followed by a time of sharing with the family and the presentation of a Bible.

Plans began in the Spring of 1997 to build a recovery building to house the recovery trailer and provide an areas where tool maintenance can be performed.

INTERRACIAL COOPERATION

Mrs. Elsie Robbins, member of Lebanon Baptist Church, was employed in 1960 by the Baptist State Convention to work with the Office of International Cooperation. The department is supported jointly by the National Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention and the Home Mission Board. Her first assignment was a Vacation Bible School Clinic at Cedar Grove Church in Supply, NC.

She reported in 1962 that through her work she had reached some 250 Negro children and 60 Indian children during the summer. Five Bible Schools were held in the Brunswick area with 46 professions of faith.

In 1963 she held a VBS clinic at Mt. Zion Church in Longwood with over one hundred in attendance and



she took a team to the State VBS Clinic, the first General Baptist group to attend a state clinic. During the summer six Bible Schools were held with 350 children attending.

The report in 1964 indicated six Bible Schools held in Negro churches with nine churches included through joint schools with 579 teachers and children registered. A week of camp at Pembroke reached 40 young people. Monetary gifts to State Missions and Home Missions made this work possible.

Progress continued as several churches began to purchase their own literature and hold schools with personnel trained in clinics led by Mrs. Robbins. Churches involved were: Mt. Zion, Cedar Grove, Little Macedonia, Big Macedonia, St. James, Little Prong, Bethlehem, Southport First, Piney Grove, St. John's, Pleasant View and Pleasant Grove.

Mrs. Robbins' work began with teacher training and holding Bible Schools. As this work grew in strength churches were able to hold their own schools. She then broadened her work by participating in Institutes, teaching study courses, securing workers for Bible Schools, attending Human Rights Conferences and Race Relations Days, and holding prayer retreats.

She reported in 1972 traveling 4,410 miles in Brunswick County while conducting seven weeks of Institutes along with Mrs. Annie Bryant, a Shaw University worker. As a team they covered the lower part of Brunswick County.

Evidences of her work were being realized. She spoke of a 17 year old girl whom she began working with at age seven and now the girl wanted to hold a school at St. John's Church. That year she only talked to one church about Bible School since all the rest contacted her. It had taken 12 years for this to happen and for that she was happy. The churches held their own clinics while she sat back and listened. The Ocean View Association conducted their own Vacation Bible School Clinic without help from anyone in 1974.

Beginning as Interracial Cooperation in 1960 and ending as Cooperatives Ministries, Mrs. Robbins, in 1978, tendered her letter of resignation. She wrote, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak and tired. With regret, I have to step aside. I hope that someone will take up the task and move ahead. My desire is that you continue to pray for the work not only in the state but throughout the convention as well, for, God has made of one blood all people". In response, a letter from Corbin Cooper, Director, Department of Cooperative Ministries with General Baptist was read to the messengers of the 1973 Annual Meeting.

Dear Mrs. Robbins:

It never occurred to me that you would ever consider retiring. I just assumed that you would go on forever.

You have done a good work for many years. Your vision of Christian missions is shared by far too few Baptist in North Carolina. You discovered something years ago that some missionaries have yet to learn. God has blessed your efforts.

While you deserve a rest from specific responsibilities, I know your witnessing will not cease. It is my prayer that you will enjoy many happy hours with the memories of your work.

You and Brother Robbins will continue to be in our prayers. Thank you for your loyalty and dedication to Cooperative Ministries. We will communicate with Moderator Gause, but no one will ever quite replace you.

God bless you.

MEDIA LIBRARY

In the beginning, there were about three churches that had libraries. Today approximately one half of the churches report having a media library.

On Thursday, April 29, 1976, the first meeting of TACLO (The Association's Church Library Organization) was held at Antioch Church with 15 in attendance representing six of our churches. TACLO continued with Susie S. Carson of Southport as the first Associational Library President. Our watchword became Galatians 6:9.

TACLO was changed to TACMO (The Associational Church Media-Library Organization). At one time

we were known as BAMCO (Brunswick Association Media Center Organization); but this was changed back to TACMO to be like the rest of the country. Finally, in 1998 TACMO was changed to TAMMY (The Association Media Ministry) by the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1977, 11 churches reported that they had libraries -- most in the beginning stage. It was decided that we would meet quarterly to help each library get more up-to-date and to have programs which would benefit each library.

On April 11, 1978, Margaret Clemmons of Faith church took over as TACMO President, with Louise Smith of Oak Island First Baptist as Vice President. Secretary-Treasurer was Peggy Owens of Calvary Church. Program Chairman was Susie Carson of Southport Church, and Media Education was Muriel Lennon of Supply church. Representatives have attended the State Library Convention held previously in major cities of North Carolina and presently at Caraway Conference Center or Fort Caswell Assembly.

For the years 1981, 1982 and 1983, banquets were held at Supply Church in an effort to get pastors and other church officials to see how important the Media Library is to a church. Through the years, persons from Nashville have come and taught a two day course on library - media methods. The Bladen, Columbus, and New Hanover Associations also participated.

During 1980, books were given by libraries to the Jennifer Brown Home. A central location was needed for TACMO meetings and Supply Church graciously allowed us use of their facilities.

A Technical Processes Director, Trudy Bass was elected in 1982.

In November 1983, Mancil Ezzell, Director of Church Media Programs, Nashville, TN, came to Southport Church and led a two day course on audio visuals called Graphics & Promotion.

During January 1984, the book, "A Church Media Library At Work," was taught by Peggy Owens.

In April 1984, 54 people attended the media-library banquet. Theme: Don't stay in the past - move up to the future.

During August 1986, the book, "Church On Mission," was taught by Peggy Thompson with 12 members in attendance.

In 1986, we thought about disbanding as no interest was being shown; however, we continued and today we have 16 media libraries in our churches. Prospect Baptist Church is our newest media ministry.

A well-stocked associational library was begun in 1986. Media-Libraries should be a part of the church - not apart from the church.

MIGRANT MINISTRY

In 1994 the opportunity to expand the ministry to migrant workers was presented to the Association. Efforts were made to expand and reach out to people wherever they were.

Worship services were held in three locations: Soldier Bay Baptist Church; Buck Creek Baptist Church in South Carolina and tent meetings at Pireway, SC. There were 45 professions of faith and 17 children in Vacation Bible School. Robert Bell, a volunteer from the Home Mission Board, and Ivan Cortes were instrumental in starting this ministry.

Peace Memorial Baptist Church distributed food to migrants in the southern end of the county. Working with Brunswick Community College, English classes for the migrants were provided throughout the county. Rev. Charlie Smith, Migrant Ministries Director, set goals for the ministry which included a program to build fellowship and to share the gospel by providing a place of worship. Migrants are encouraged to get involved in a local church and to develop their own program of worship under the leadership of the church.

During 1996 interest in the program increased as Vacation Bible Schools were provided for migrant children, six churches assembled and distributed 80 care kits for the families, and individuals got excited and involved in establishing a relationship with the migrants in order to help them meet their needs.

English classes, Vacation Bible Schools, food collections and distributions, and worship opportunities continue to be provided for our migrant workers.

MISSIONS DEVELOPMENT

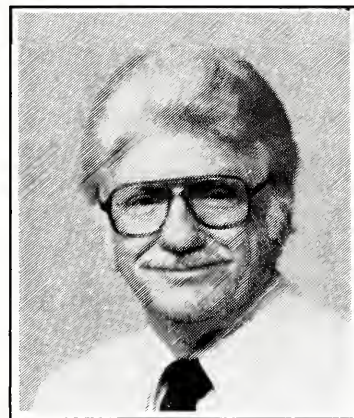
A program of the '90's is Mission Development - involving churches in programs of total outreach into our communities. Unlimited mission opportunities are available for the churches of the Association.

Great strides forward were made during the first year of service. During 1995 churches were involved in Habitat for Humanity, Hope Harbor Home, Hospice and the Literacy Council. Other outreach programs were the ministry to migrants, resort ministry and developing relationships with our black Baptist friends.

Participating in the World Mission Conference during April, 1996 were 24 churches. Tabitha Hickman served as a summer missions intern working in the Resort Ministry, Migrant Ministry, and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Rev. Jack Hancox, Missions Ministry Director, reported in 1997 that God is moving mightily among us these days. Churches are developing new and effective outreach programs to meet the challenge of the many newcomers arriving in our county. Almost one half of our churches are assisting in our mission commitment. More churches are realizing that ministry opportunities exist for church volunteers. A large group of our men and women have assisted in the construction of New Ebenezer Baptist Church, the newest and first black church to become a member of the Brunswick Baptist Association.

So much is going on. New ministries are opening up daily. Outreach has become a matter of serious concern in our churches.



Rev. Jack Hancox

RECREATION PROGRAM

Realizing that the recreational activities of the Association have been lacking in the past, Rev. William Greer, Recreation Director, presented a plan of action at the 1989 Annual Meeting. Activities included were a softball league or some other sports-oriented program and an associationwide picnic with games and activities. The picnic was a success and helped create a lot of interest in a recreational program.

Plans for 1990 included softball, tennis and basketball. Rev. Greer spoke of our dream that one day before many years have passed we will have a centralized recreational facility at or near the Resource Center.

Don Lamb, Director in 1992, reported on the coed softball league and the coed golf tournament. Not enough interest was shown in launching a basketball league. Several churches used these activities as a method of outreach and a time to witness.

The third coed softball season was completed in 1993 with 12 churches participating. Twelve churches participated. A second annual golf tournament was played. Enough interest was shown that plans were made to have an organizational meeting to discuss a basketball league. The availability of gym space was a problem that needed to be explored.

Interest was high in the coed softball league. The 1994 season was completed with a 30-game, double elimination tournament and pig pickin' with 450 players and fans present. Again the golf tournament was held and a coed volleyball league was formed with seven teams from six churches.

The association is richly blessed in outreach opportunities and Christian fellowship through athletics. Additional property has been purchased adjacent to the Resource Center and plans are to create softball fields and a family life center to provide a central fellowship location for our association.

RESORT MINISTRY

The first Summer Resort Ministry was begun in 1987 under the direction of Carole Honeycutt and Rev. Mylan Pressnell. Tents were set up at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier Campground and Sea Mist Campground at Brick Landing. A total of 47 programs were presented during the six-week ministry, reaching 550 people.

The 1989 Resort Ministry suffered some because the director, Rev. Paul Early, returned to the mission field. One coordinator asked to be released of his duties due to his heavy personal schedule and another, a pastor, moved to another pastorate. Fortunately, James Hartman, Minister of Education from Charlotte moved to the Holden Beach area and agreed to work in the Holden Beach ministry. Rev. Jesse Bentley led the Brick Landing ministry.

An excellent report was given in 1990. Now under the leadership of Rev. Jack Hancox three early morning preaching stations were set up. Sea Mist CampGround led by the members of Jennies Branch Church, Middleton Park on Oak Island led by the Oak Island Church and at Tanglewood led by Rev. Hancox and Rev. Hayden Cartner. As many as 16 pastors served as "Pastors on Call" to assist visitors in Brunswick County having need for chaplaincy services.

During the summer of 1991 services were held at five locations: Sea Mist Campground, Tanglewood, Holden Beach Campground, The Cabana on Long Beach and Oak Island First Baptist Church. Attendance exceeded 200 people.

In 1993 and 1994 several groups of young people from outside the state came into the association to help in the Resort Ministry. They helped in VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, witnessing surveys, and beach ministries. The groups worked through the Home Mission Board at no cost to the Association.

This ministry has become an intergal part of the outreach program of the Association. Lives have been changed and lives have been saved due to the efforts of the many people involved in the ministry.

SENIOR ADULTS

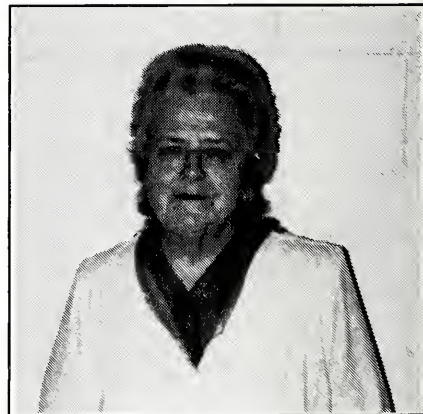
During the early '80's a very successful program was begun by Mrs. Ouida H. Hewett. Serving as Senior Adult Coordinator she encouraged the churches to elect a coordinator to promote activities within their church.

Work began slowly but grew into a productive and successful outreach ministry to the senior adults in our churches. One of the most popular events were the trips to see the various outdoor dramas in North Carolina.

Workshops were held, quilts were quilted for the Jennifer Brown Home, dolls dressed for needy children, Sweetheart Banquets, hot meals and fellowship were events participated in by the senior adults of our churches.

The program, as well as several individuals, were recognized by the Governor for outstanding service and volunteerism.

The '90's brought a name change. Now known as Christian Social Ministries, a solid program of activities that recognize the senior adults and their contributions is in place.



Ouida Hewett

Much credit is due the Associational Missionaries and the role they played in making Vacation Bible School so successful. Rev. Walter R. Moorehead and Mrs. Margaret McRackan traveled thousands of miles each year training teachers and teaching in Bible Schools. In 1952, Rev. Moorehead taught in 24 Bible Schools. Mrs. McRackan held 26 Bible Schools in 1953. At times she would hold three schools in a day- one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one at night. She always kept a huge supply of cookies and kool-aid in her big, black DeSota automobile for refreshments. Many of the leaders in the Association today are products of Mrs. McRackan's Bible Schools. In her report in 1956 she noted that again for the third year we have been 100% in Vacation Bible Schools.

Until 1970 Vacation Bible school data was a part of the Sunday School report and the Associational Vacation Bible School Director was listed as an officer of the Association. In 1971 the first VBS report was given separate from the Sunday School report. The report included 29 churches reporting schools, four mission schools, 2028 children enrolled, mission offering of \$794.00 and 26 professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Vacation Bible Schools continue to be of the strengths of our Association. Certainly the enthusiasm created by willing workers and the desire of youth to learn contributes to this success.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

One of the most successful programs within the church has been Vacation Bible School. Over the years it has been known as Daily Vacation Bible School, Bible School and Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School has been around since the early 1930's. In 1933, for the first time, churches were requested to supply Vacation Bible School information for the church letter.

According to Rev. Avery Lumsden, a former Vacation Bible School Director, Vacation Bible School is an unparalleled opportunity. It affords the church an occasion to minister to the home and the child. It uncovers new talent and leadership. It discovers the lost and unreached and unloved. It gives the Christian an outlet for his love and concern. The time a church spends in Vacation Bible School is probably the most important week in any given year.

In 1935, Southport Church was the first to report a school. They listed 158 enrolled with 125 average attendance. The next year Goshen and Southport churches reported a school.

Farmer's Chapel and Southport churches held a Vacation Bible School in 1940. Seven churches reported schools in 1945. Mr. I.S. Willetts reported in 1946, 13 of 24 churches holding a school with 747 in attendance and 76 baptisms as a result of VBS. The 1948 schools were handicapped in several ways. The polio epidemic was raging and the tobacco season required the young people to help out at home. Yet, not a school was lost from last year. There were nine school held with an enrollment of 710 pupils.

A marked increase in attendance and number of churches holding schools began in the 1950's. During the summer of 1950, 25 churches held schools with 1587 students enrolled. From that time to the present the number of churches holding schools continued to grow. Approximately 30 churches held Vacation Bible Schools yearly.

These schools reached more and more of our children. Mr. A.S. Knowles, in his 1951 report, said that all of our churches have cooperated in Bible School work. Jennies Branch Church was recognized as the church setting the pace in VBS work.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth leaders of the Association are of the general concerns that there is a need to strengthen and build a youth ministry through such existing organizations as the Sunday School and Church Training.

A Youth Ministries Council was formed in 1993 to assist in the planning of youth events for the Association. As a result plans were made to have associational training events for youth teachers and leaders and associational gatherings for the youth on a quarterly basis.

Seminars, workshops and conferences provide opportunities for youth leaders to meet and discuss the many different ways to reach out to young people.

Many events are available for the youth of the Association to get together - swim parties at Caswell, Associational Youth Night, visiting performers, and evangelistic events.

The Youth Ministry continues to be a strong program within the Association. Using Baptist Student Union groups from colleges in the area, the WITNESS team and local talent, the Associational Youth Council enables the youth of the Association to become aware of their potential and the many possibilities they have for service to others.



Vacation Bible School, Howell's Point Mission, 1958. Mrs. Margaret McRackan (top row, left).

The Brunswick Baptist Sunday School Convention met with Mt. Pisgah on Saturday, July 29th, 1910. Convention called to order by J.C. Mizell. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: President - J.C. Mizell, Secretary - Troy Hewett.

The list of schools was called, and delegates enrolled as follows: **Antioch** - John Smith, R. B. Lewis and H.D. Ward, **Beulah** - Clifton Thomas, **Chapel Hill** - G. P. Frink, D. N. Hewett and S. J. Caines, **Cool Run** - Dexter Browning and Isaac Milliken, **Lebanon** - I. W. Harrelson and V. C. Garner, **Mill Creek** - O. A. Lewis, J. H. Sellars, G. W. Sellars, Sadie Swain, Ruth Outlaw and Nellie Lewis, **Poley Bridge** - A. T. Ward and C. F. Ward, **Camp Branch** - N. Little and J. J. Little, **Oak Grove** - Enoch Hewett, J. A. Clemmons, and R. S. Hewett, **Prospect** - B. L. Holden, H. D. Clemmons and G. T. Clemmons, **Shallotte** - Herbert Mintz, C. Milliken and Mary Stocks, **Regan** - Ivan L. Bennett and George H. Gray, **Southport** - Mrs. J. J. Loughlin and Alfred Smith.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by J. A. Bryson, from the 17th verse of the third chapter of Ephesians.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARIES

As early as 1901 it is noted that the Association was divided into an Eastern and a Western District and there were persons appointed or employed by the Association to do "mission work" within the bounds of the Association. Some of these were Rev. D. P. Robbins for the Western District and Rev. B. G. Early for the Eastern District.

In the 1902 minutes Rev. H. S. Robinson reported on his mission work as follows: "By the request of the Board I have visited Camp Branch 11, preached 22 sermons, and received \$10.00 from the church."

Report from Rev. E. L. Swain, Missionary: "Traveled nine days and preached 18 sermons and received \$2.25 for my services."

In the 1904 minutes we find this report of Rev. D. L. Hewett concerning his missionary work in the Association: "I have made six trips to Little Zoar and have received \$7.66. Brother G. T. Hickman has made three trips and received \$2.85. Brother E. L. Swain has made two trips and has received \$2.16."

It is not known exactly what these men did or the situation involved in the missionary work. From the reading of the minutes it is gathered that these men preached and promoted education in some way. Once or twice in the early days we find mention of church collections taken in the churches where they worked and the balance being paid by the Association.

REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON HALL WHITE (July, 1947 - 1948)

The first Associational Missionary of the Brunswick Baptist Association was Rev. George W. H. White, employed in June 1947 and served for only a short time. However, this was a beginning for the work and we can be grateful for a good beginning.

Rev. White, in a 1973 letter gave a resume of his work with us. Attached is a short resume of my experience in the Brunswick Association as Missionary back in 1947. It had to be short for I was here for only a short time. The mention of the difficulties so far as the finances is concerned is not for criticism, but only to show things as they were back then and to let the people know how far they have come.



The following is a summary of my missionary work: In June of 1947 I was called as Missionary for the Brunswick Baptist Association, to work in and with the churches in whatever capacity they desired. I taught study courses, preached revivals, supplied for pastors and pastorless churches, and assisted in organizing church fields.

The work was new to the churches, and, in spite of the many difficulties, it was very rewarding. There was no house available to live in Brunswick County so it was necessary to reside in Wilmington.

The salary was \$2,400.00 with an additional \$200.00 for travel.

The Southport church was the only full-time church and the only church with a pastor living on the field. Several

were half-time and the rest of them quarter-time.

Because the work was new, many of the churches did not support the work, so it was necessary for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to assist in the finances. Sometimes it was necessary to drive to the Friendship community, where the treasurer lived, to get my check, only to find there was not enough money in the treasury. Therefore it was necessary to wait a few days.

Because of the many difficulties, I felt this was not the work God had called me to do, so I sent in my resignation effective January 1, 1948.

As I said above, the work was very rewarding and I fell in love with the people of the Brunswick Association and the county. This is part of the reason we decided to retire in Brunswick County, which we did November 1st, 1972.

Rev. and Mrs. White died on March 21, 1977 when their car slid on a rain slick highway east of Whiteville, NC. The Rev. White was born in New Hanover County, NC on October 29, 1907 and was the son of the late George M. and Susan Hall White. Mrs. Louise G. White was born in Jacksonville, FL on September 30, 1910 and was the daughter of William K. Mintz and the late Nellie Hatchell Mintz. They were married on January 12, 1929. Surviving were two daughters, Mrs. James C. (Eleanor) Horrell of Wilmington and Mrs. Howard R. (Gerry) Fannery of Roanoke Rapids, NC. Funeral services were held at Calvary Baptist Church in Wilmington by Rev. Henry L. Register and Rev. A. L. McGee. Interment was in Greenlawn Memorial Park. At the time of their deaths, Rev. White was serving as interim pastor at Woodburn First Church in Leland, NC.

Rev. Walter Rupert Moorehead (1948-1952)

Rev. W. R. Moorehead was next called as our Associational Missionary and he encouraged and led the people to greater goals and service to our Lord.

The following is a reminiscence of his work.

Reverend W. R. Moorehead was unable to write due to arthritis, gave an oral account of his years of service as Associational Missionary. Rev. Moorehead advised that he had written a history of the years that he served, however this was inadvertently destroyed. His oral report follows: I came to Brunswick County and met with the Executive Committee composed of Rev. Herbert Baker, Moderator, Mr. Olen Clemmons and Mr. Floyd Hickman. The meeting was held at the Mount Olive Church. I was accepted by the committee and began work in July 1948. When I began work there was \$25.00 in the Associational Treasury.

The position of Associational Missionary was new and the people in the Association did not really understand all that was involved. The people were anxious to get someone to do the work, but the job was not an easy one. There were few paved roads at the time and virtually no telephones in most areas of the county. When someone wanted to see him about a matter he had to drive across the county to his home. Most of the churches had services only once a month. One preacher in the Association was pastoring four churches, but this was later narrowed down to two churches. Rev. Mr. Moorehead, in his oral report, went on to say that he had a difficult time getting preachers to come to this association.

He commented that the Supply church was one of the fastest working little churches in the county. He



worked to organize Ocean View Baptist Church. This was at the time a Methodist church, but permission was obtained for it to become a Baptist church. Gospel Center church was once an Independent church. It was changed to a Baptist church but kept the name Gospel Center. It had been organized under the leadership of Mrs. Satterfield.

Rev. Moorehead also mentioned that he helped organize several other churches in the county.

At one point he mentioned that Lebanon church was a good contributor to the cause of missions.

It was during the time he was Associational Missionary that the Caswell situation came up and he, together with the help of others, finally sold the Baptist State Convention on the idea of the Caswell center.

Rev. W. R. Moorehead stated that he was proud of his work and that the Lord had blessed him wonderfully while he was Associational Missionary. He loved the work and loved teaching people the Bible and the study courses. He is sure that he taught over 500 study courses during the years he served as Associational Missionary.

Rev. Walter Rupert Moorehead, born in Concord, NC, graduated from Wingate Junior College in 1948. His last two years of high school was spent at Wingate. Among his many high school and college activities were class president, Philosophian Society, Ministerial Band, Student Council and yearbook staff. He was selected Most Studious his senior year.

As Associational Missionary in 1948, he presented recommendations that would advance our associational work to greater heights. These included a School of Missions, a Deacon's School, a Bible School Clinic, every church magnifying the Cooperative Program, an Enlargement campaign for Training Union, and Study courses, a calendar of activities published by him and the resuming of the Minister's Conference.

In 1950, Rev. Moorehead reported traveling 33,000 miles, holding 18 V.B.S., visited 27 churches, taught 10 WMU study courses, taught the Book of Acts in 12 churches, and taught eight Training Union courses.

In 1951 he traveled 40,000 miles, visited 27 churches, preached 75 sermons and held one revival.

During 1952 Rev. Moorehead continued to make visits in homes (400), hold revivals, teach study courses, organize a Training Union and one new church.

After his resignation in 1953, Rev. Moorehead continued to be active in the churches of the Association, serving as pastor of Farmer's Chapel church and the Howell's Point mission.

At the Executive Committee meeting July 3, 1972 at Elah Baptist Church, Rev. J. Lanier Dew, pastor of Woodburn Church stated that Rev. W.R. Moorehead, a former associational missionary and his wife are both in ill health. Their chief concern at this time appears to be financial. A number of our churches and some individuals are now helping the couple. He asked if it were possible for the churches through the Association, with the Director of Missions coordinating their efforts, to help in this situation? Rev. Lanier stated the question as a motion which was seconded. After considerable discussion the motion failed. In the July, 1972 associational newsletter there was an appeal for assistance for the couple. The October, 1972 newsletter carried the following note of thanks from Rev. and Mrs. W.R. Moorehead. We express our deep gratitude to those who participated in the recent love offering. It was a gift from God in the time of need.

Mrs. Margaret Craig McRackan (1952-1965)

Mrs. Margaret Craig McRackan served as Associational Missionary from December 1952 until October 1965, our the Association in much growth in every area of the work and in closer fellowship with each other. Her devotion to the work knew no bounds. Following her resignation she was honored by the Associational Missions Committee at an Appreciation Reception at the Oak Island Baptist Mission, (where she had her membership) on Sunday, December 2, 1965.

Mrs. Margaret McRackan was one of nine children born to Rev. and Mrs. Braxton Craig. After graduating from Southport High School in 1927 she attended Meredith College for one year. She and her husband, Thomas McRackan of Southport, NC were the parents of three girls, Anne, Rebecca and Catherine.

She was ordained as a deacon by Southport Baptist Church in 1949. She served extensively in VBS and WMU. For many years she served as WMU Superintendent in the Association. On her biographical sheet she wrote that she was thinking seriously of writing a book on her 13 years of labor in The Brunswick Association calling it "The Most Rewarding Years of My Life."

Susan Usher Eggert wrote in a column for the Brunswick Beacon on December 20, 1990 about her memories of Mrs. McRackan.

I don't remember the first time I met Mrs. McRackan. But it was probably about 1961 or 1962, the summer of my first week at Girls' Auxiliary Camp at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. For us it was a family affair - my sisters Jean and Carol were already camp veterans. Still a little young for GAs, I think I got to go to camp because Mama was a chaperone.

Mrs. McRackan's name became synonymous with camp, though as missionary for the county Baptist association she had many more responsibilities than just working with GAs. But I remember her leading us in songs, prayer and worship on top of the fort where we held vespers each evening, overlooking the Cape Fear River.

That's where she was the last time I saw her, too, about five years ago at a countrywide GA weekend camp. It seemed like old times, with Mrs. McRackan up front leading and rows of eager young girls singing silly camp songs at the top of their lungs, mixing up all the hand motions, then bowing their heads quietly for devotionals.

That's the way I'll always recall her, showing young girls what it means to be a joyful Christian.

On the occasion of the Association's 75th Anniversary Mrs. McRackan wrote this letter.

Dear Friends of the Brunswick Association,

God's world moves on - it has now been eight years since my leaving the Association as your Missionary. I had served for 13 years and felt my widowed daughter needed me with her in Charlotte.

I've been back to Brunswick County each summer, but this is our 75th Anniversary Year for the Association, so please let me remind myself and you of some of the memorable happenings in the Brunswick Association during those years I served as your Missionary.

As I look back, so many Vacation Bible Schools come to mind, and especially one at Jennies Branch when a precious little four-year old, after learning about Jesus' love for him, turned to his father at the breakfast table and said, "Daddy, Jesus loves you." Later, that father was converted.

I think, too, of the wonderful men who served as pastors in the Association during those years. How great it has been to attend Homecoming Sundays since then and see and hear many of these fine men who have gone on to become zealous men of God.

Another remembrance is that of many young people giving themselves to Jesus. One instance that stands out in my mind is that of a wonderful group at Gospel Center, including the pastor's children. One in that group is now a preacher.

This past summer I had the opportunity to meet again and fellowship with some of the women of Woman's Missionary Union at a covered dish supper. There it was a joy to see and reminisce with some of the women who



had been my right-arm helpers of those other days, such as Catherine King, Joyce Bennett, Susie Carson, Elsie Robbins, Gola McKeithan, Maggie Benton and several others who are still trying to serve our Lord through missionary education of women and children. There was also the joy this summer of witnessing the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jewel McKeithan and hearing them renew their wedding vows in a special service at Mount Olive Church. As we reach our senior years it is such a joy to know that we have so many wonderful Christian friends.

I am happy to be invited by your present Superintendent of Missions to be with you for your Annual Meeting in 1973 - your Anniversary celebration. My sincere prayer is that God may continue to bless this great Association.

Another recognition came to her when the minutes of the 1965 session of the Association were dedicated to her and noted here.

Mrs. Margaret McRackan served for 13 years as the missionary of the Brunswick Baptist Association. Her pleasant personality and readiness to help in every good cause endeared her to the whole community. Her untiring devotion to the work of the churches has made a lasting contribution to the kingdom of our Christ. As an expression of our love, and our appreciation for her faithful and fruitful labor, this edition of the association is affectionately dedicated to her.

Rev. Henry Lee Register (1966-1968)

Rev. Henry Lee Register was a son of Walter and Nancy Raynor Register. He was born April 23, 1922 in Duplin County, North Carolina and was a graduate of Mars Hill College, Furman University and attended Southeastern Seminary.

At the Executive Committee meeting at Old Shallotte Baptist Church on March 7, 1966, Mr. Tyler Potter gave the Missions Committee report. Mr. Potter told of the committee's work in contacting and visiting Rev. H.L. Register in connection with the possibility of his becoming our Associational Missionary. Various members of the committee told of the qualifications of Rev. H.L. Register, his service as former pastor in the association, his love for this area and its people, etc. He was present at this meeting, but excused himself for a vote to be taken after Mr. Tyler Potter made a motion to accept Rev. H.L. Register as our Associational Missionary. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Rev. H.L. Register informed the committee that he could not accept the call at this time, but after much prayer and consideration would inform the committee of his decision at a future date.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting at Mill Creek Baptist Church on April 4, 1966 includes a report by Mr. Tyler Potter on the Associational Missionary. Rev. H.L. Register has accepted the call and planned to move on the field June 6th. The housing problem was discussed as no place has as yet been secured for him to live. Later in the meeting the Missions Committee asked help in



securing house for the Associational Missionary and office furniture - filing cabinet, desk, typewriter.

Rev. Register set up the first associational office in a small, white building in Supply. Mr. J.J. Hawes owned the building and used part of it for his insurance business. It was in the building that he started the first associational newsletter, "The Brunswick Baptist Tie." He had in mind that through his newsletter it would help tie the churches together. He worked day and night when he started his newsletter. He contacted all the churches and got the names of all the officers in the church and got the newsletter in the hands of everyone that he could so they'd know what his plans were, and what his work was going to be. He had a tremendous mailing list.

He preached in every church at least once each year. Some of the churches were so small and just didn't have the tithes to come in for them to put in the associational treasury. He would contact the treasurer or pastor or someone in the church and see if they could give just a little to missions because he wanted to be able to report 100% of the churches giving to associational missions.

Mrs. Register, when asked what she thought his years of service as Associational Missionary would be remembered for, without hesitation replied, "The newsletter which he published every month for two years and how he counseled with pastors. He could relate well with the pastors. When they would have a pastor's conference in one end of the county he would contact the preachers that lived close by and go by and pick them up. He supported his pastors in every way he could. By him being in the pastorate he realized the importance of the Associational Missionary being a pastor to the pastors."

Rev. Arthur Richardson Waisner (1968-1985)

Rev. Arthur R. Waisner, a native of Stanly County, North Carolina, was born August 20, 1920, the son of Thomas and Emma Waisner. He became a Christian in 1940. In 1941 he married the former Gracie Blalock and their marriage has been blessed by a son and two daughters, and now four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Following his active duty in World War II, Rev. A.R. Waisner was employed by Wiscassett Hosiery Mill in Albemarle, North Carolina, but feeling a strong call to the ministry and being willing to serve where God would have him, he attended Wingate College and Catawba College and also took seminary courses.

In the course of his ministry, Rev. Waisner pastored Antioch, Richfield and Red Cross Baptist churches in the Stanley Association, and Supply Baptist Church in the Brunswick Association. It was from Supply Church that he was called to serve as the Brunswick Association's Director of Missions.

For the 75th Anniversary of the Brunswick Baptist Association he wrote the following letter: In December of 1966 the Supply Baptist Church called me as pastor, which I served through 1968.

During these two years I served as president of the County Pastor's Conference, vice-moderator and moderator of the Brunswick Baptist Association.

Rev. Henry L. Register was serving as Associational Missionary during this time. He had done an outstanding job in every phase of the associational work and had set up an office in Supply. The Association was moving forward in a great way.



However, at the end of 1968, the doctors advised Rev. H.L. Register to retire from active duty as Missionary and preacher because of a heart condition.

In the meantime the Associational Missions Committee approached me to become the Associational Missionary.

After much thought and prayer I felt that this was God's will for my life. In January of 1969 I began my work as Associational Missionary, with 35 churches, one mission and two newly-organized churches.

At the Annual Meeting of the association in October of 1969 - the Sunset Harbor Baptist Church was received into full-fellowship of the Association.

At the same session, the Calabash Mission and the Woodburn First churches were received under the watchcare of the Association for one year. At the Annual Session in October of 1970 both churches were received into full fellowship of the Association, making a total of 38 churches.

At the end of 1968 there was a total membership of 4,922 in the churches and the total receipts for the year were \$2705.04. At the November Executive Committee Meeting there were eight churches requesting pastoral aid.

We are thankful for the progress that our Association has made and we believe it will continue to grow and expand. Whatever progress has been made during these years our people deserve the praise and God the glory. I am grateful for the opportunity that has been mine to work in the Brunswick Baptist Association, and shall look for even greater things to take place in the future. May this be our motto, Brunswick County for Christ.

Rev. A.R. Waisner retired December 31, 1985. The Waisners were honored with a retirement service and reception. "Living and working in Brunswick County has been a rewarding and joyful experience," Waisner said. "We have come to love the people dearly." Rev. and Mrs. Waisner are now living in retirement in Salisbury, NC.

The following lines are from a poem written by Jacquelyn Smith and presented to Rev. A.R. Waisner at his birthday party August 20, 1971.

He's always there when there's a need;
With a prayer, encouragement and a kind deed.

A smile always adorns his face
No matter what the time or place.

Rev. Waisner died on May 18, 1999 at Brian Center in Salisbury, NC. The funeral was conducted May 23, at North Main Church in Salisbury by Dr. Dale Robertson, Rev. Jesse Bentley and Rev. Leo Cannon. Burial was in Fairview Memorial Park, Albermarle, NC with full military rites.

Rev. Marvin Watzel Chapman (1986-1992)

By unanimous vote on January 13, 1986, the Brunswick Baptist Association called Rev. M. W. Chapman of Southport, NC as Interim Director of Missions and full-time Director of Missions as on July 14, 1986.

His wife, Mrs. Rebecca Chapman, was current WMU Director of the Brunswick Baptist Association.

Rev. Marvin Chapman had served as Sunday School Consultant of Eastern N.C. since 1982 and had served as Sunday School Enlargement Campaign Coordinator and Director in North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Virginia, and West Virginia.

He organized and pastored the Neighborhood Mission of Louisville, KY; the Trinity Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC; and the Spring Lake Mission out of which has come the First Baptist Church of Spring Lake, NC. His ministry consists of Assistant Pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville NC, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church,

First Baptist church of Franklin, NC., Greystone Baptist Church of Asheboro, NC. and Assistant Director of the N.C. Baptist Assembly.

In his first written report to the Association Rev. Chapman wrote: In so many ways this has been a great year in the Brunswick Association. I have had the privilege of being in 36 churches to supply the pulpit. For me personally, this has been a great experience since I have "A Preacher's Heart." The revival preached and the classes taught and the conference led have been rich experiences. Please let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve in your church this year.

During the year Rev. Chapman traveled many miles, visited churches, taught Bible studies, led WMU mission studies, attended Pastor's Conferences, met with committees and stressed unity of spirit, purpose and solidarity in the Association.

Rev. Marvin Chapman felt that the main objective of the Association was to offer services to individual churches and prepare members for leadership in the church. He believed that opportunities and challenges abounded for Brunswick County churches and that associational committees should look at ways to better meet the needs of residents and visitors to the area. These may include strengthening existing programs, such as seminary extension education for pastors, as well as new work, such as establishing new churches or mission points, and venturing into new areas of ministry.

In 1987, for the first time, the Association hosted a five-member resort area ministries team, under the missionary's supervision. A study commission is looked into every aspect of associational life and how to improve its activities, programs and opportunities in order to make it more effective.

Rev. Marvin Watzel Chapman, 80, died Thursday, May 8, 1997, in North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, NC.

Rev. Chapman was born July 7, 1916, in Salisbury, a son of Charles and Mae Koontz Chapman. He had been a resident of High Point for the past five years, having previously lived in Asheboro and Southport. He was director of missions for the Central Baptist Association in High Point and was a member of Green Street Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Rebecca Beard Chapman of the home; two sons, Marvin Watzel Chapman II of Lake Norman and Charles Wallace Chapman of Asheboro; one daughter, Mrs. Stephanie Sanders of Greensboro.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, July 11, 1997 at 3 p.m. at the Cumby Eastchester Drive Chapel with Dr. James E. Baucom, Dr. D. McCall Brunson Jr., Dr. James A. Summey and Rev. Steve Jones officiating. Area Baptist ministers served as pallbearers.



Rev. William Lennon Smith (1992-Present)

Upon the resignation of Rev. Marvin Chapman on February 15, 1992 a Director of Missions Search Committee was appointed. At the June 22, 1992 Executive Board Meeting Rev. Vic Potter, chairman of the DOM

Search Committee read the following recommendation: The Associational DOM Search Committee unanimously recommends that we extend a call to Rev. William L. Smith as Director of Missions for the Brunswick Baptist Association. By a vote of 52 to 4 he was extended a call.

Rev. Smith began his ministry with the Brunswick Baptist Associations as Director of Missions on August 3, 1992. He came from Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Taylors, South Carolina where he had been serving as Associate Pastor in Education.

Rev. Smith has a strong background in church growth. While at Brushy Creek he led in the development of a Christian education program and the administrative work of the association. Through planned inreach and outreach programs Sunday School average attendance increased from 338 to 598. After developing and implementing a Discipleship Training program average attendance increased from 20 to 300.

From 1976-1988 he served as Minister of Education at Sunset Park Baptist Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. During this time the church saw a significant increase in Sunday School and Church Training average attendance through outreach emphasis and a diversified Church Training Program.

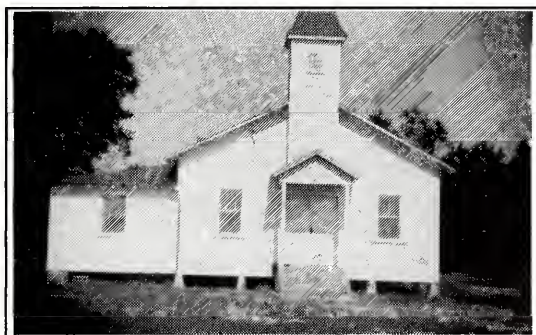
During the first year as Director Of Missions Rev. Smith visited 43 churches and either preached or spoke in each. The yearly report showed an increase in church membership by baptisms, Sunday School growth, worship attendance on the increase and church building programs in progress.

There was a marked interest in missions outside the bounds of Brunswick County. Among the many efforts were donating money to help buy handbells for missionaries in Honduras, ministry to migrant workers, Disaster Recovery assistance to hurricane and tornado victims, sponsoring the NC Baptist's Medical/Dental Van, World Missions Conference and supporting the Brunswick Counseling Service, Inc.

Rev. Smith wrote the following testimony as a part of his biographical sketch. At the young age of 13 years old I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and joined Proctorville Baptist Church in Proctorville, North Carolina. Through this experience I felt God summoning me to His ministry. Unfortunately, I was not always obedient to God's bidding. However, in 1972, while a member at Grace Baptist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. God renewed His cry for me and immediately I accepted His call. Because I have been obedient to God and His calling, I have been blessed.



Mt. Olive Church, established 1913.



Gospel Center Church, established 1952.

RESOURCE CENTER

Groundbreaking services for the construction of a Resource Center for the Association was held March 31, 1988. The ceremony was held at the building site near Mt. Olive Church on Highway 17 North business. Rev. Marvin Chapman, Director of Missions, said that this was the biggest single undertaking in the history of the Association.

A special emergency session of the Executive Board was held January 22, 1988 at Supply Baptist Church for the purpose of discussing the building and financing of the proposed associational Resource Center. Richard Holbrook, Chairman of the Building Committee, reported on the work of the committee in seeking bids as authorized by the Association in its 1987 Annual Session. Mr. Wayne Honeycutt, Rev. Franklin Myers, Mrs. Carol Hardee, Mrs. Eva Gore and Mr. William Sue were appointed to a committee for the selection, purchasing of office furniture, equipment and furnishings. They are to work with the finance and building committees.

The building contract was awarded to Ted Wood Construction Company of Southport. Completion cost was expected to be \$150,000. It was to be financed by using a cash flow fund in the amount of \$87,165, as well as building fund income received prior to completion and

anticipated funds from two other sources: quarterly receipts from the previous sale of the Achuck property and funds received from the sale of the Jennifer Brown Home. funds received from the sale of the Jennifer Brown Home.

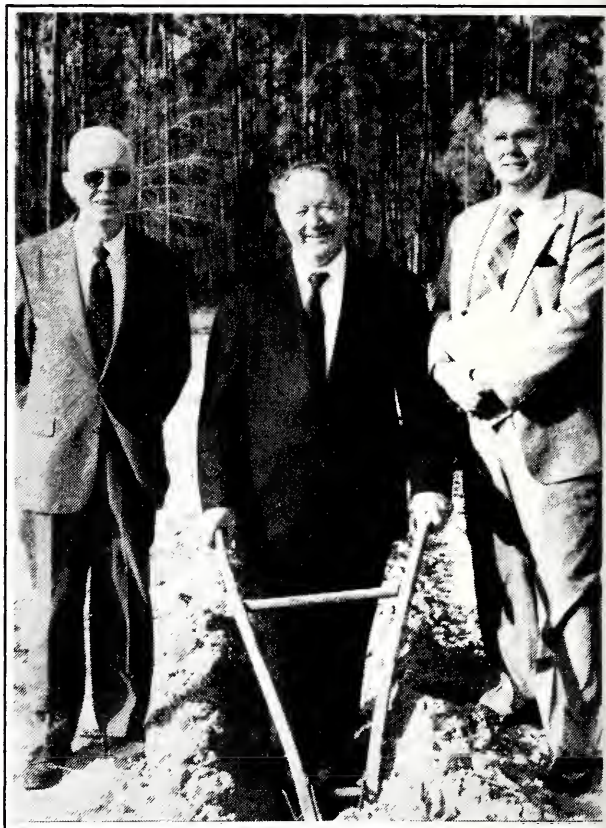
The Association appointed a committee of Rev. Victor C. Potter, Jr., Mr. E. J. Prevatte, and Mr. Douglas Hawes and authorized them to make arrangements for a loan not to needed \$65,000 to be used as needed to complete the facility.



Dedication of Associational Property, 1985. Left to right front row: Mrs. Margaret McRackan, Rev. V.C. Potter, Jr., Mr. E.J. Prevatte.

2nd row: Miss Ruth Galloway, Mrs. Susan S. Carson, Mr. Tyler Potter.

3rd row: Rev. Jim Whitworth, Rev. Hartwell Condrey



Groundbreaking, 1988. Left to Right: Rev. J. Bryan Doshier, Moderator, Rev. Marvin Chapman, Director of Missions, Rev. Victor C. Potter, Jr., Chariman of Fund Raising Committee .

Mr. Holbrook's report at the Executive Board meeting on April 11, 1988 indicated that work had begun on the building. In approximately two weeks the building would be dried in and brick masons were due.

The Resource Center will be Phase I of a master plan for expansion that calls for two additional phases. Phase I will consist of a large conference/fellowship room with adjoining kitchen facilities, a janitorial service room, a media/library center, a small conference room, a secretary/reception area, a large workroom, a study/office areas and public bathroom facilities.

Phase II will be the completion of the second floor and Phase III will be another building attached to the rear of this facility.

At the July, 1988 Executive Board meeting the moderator announced Open House would be held July 17, and Dedication Services on August 21, 1988 at the Supply Baptist Church. Dr. Roy Smith, Executive Director/Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, will be the speaker.

DEDICATION SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1988 - 2:30 P.M.

Prelude	
Call to Worship.....	Supply Church Choir
Exology.....	Congregation
Invocation.....	Wayne Trexler
Hymn No. 41.....	"To God Be The Glory"
Scripture.....	2 Chronicles 6:1-10, 14-21, 39-41
	(David Woodley)
Hymn No. 325.....	"More Like The Master"
	Led By: Bill Greer
Special.....	Town Creek Church Choir
Dedication Service.....	Rebecca Chapman
Presentation of Certificates.....	M. W. Chapman
Prayer of Dedication.....	Jim Whitworth
Special.....	Sunset Harbor Church Choir
Sermon of Dedication.....	Dr. Roy Smith
Prayer of Thanksgiving.....	Bill Buchanan

In the August, 1988 associational newsletter, Rev. Marvin Chapman, DOM, wrote a Thank You to the members of the Association.

Doubtless our Lord is very pleased with the spirit, cooperation and commitment of churches, pastors and laymen in constructing our new resource facility.

It is seldom a building of this magnitude is completed debt-free and on schedule. Completion of the center ran about 30 to 45 days earlier than anticipated and Phase I has been completed and furnished debt-free.

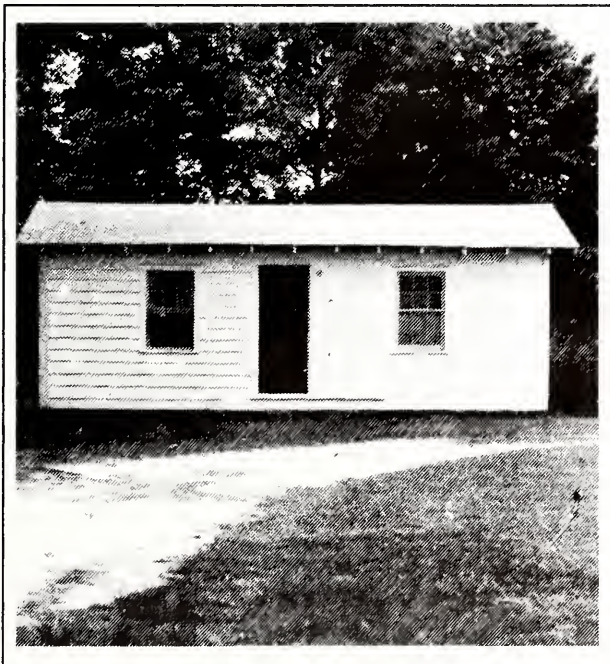
A great big thanks! is due our Resource Building/Planning Committee composed of: Richard Holbrook, Chm.; Wayne Honeycutt; Hayden Cartner; Randy Gruber; James Whitworth; Wayne Trexler; Rebecca Chapman; Lorraine Buchanan; Don Stephenson; and M. W. Chapman, Ex-officio.

A great big thank you! is equally due to the Resource Center Fund Raising Committee composed of: V. C. Potter, Jr., Chm.; Bill Sue; Jimmy Prevatte; Hugh Price; Jackie Smith; Ouida Hewett; and M. W. Chapman, Ex-officio.

A great big thank you! is equally due the pastors, laity and churches of the Brunswick Association for the sacrifice made in raising funds necessary for completion of the Resource Center.

Open House was held July 17, with 125+ in attendance.

Your Director of Missions is very proud to be able to serve this great association. He rejoices with all of you over the things being accomplished as we move forward with the Gospel through the Brunswick Association.



First Associational Office, 1966, located at Supply, NC.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

At each session of the Brunswick Association during 1899, 1900 and 1901 there were reports on Home, Foreign and State Missions. The report on missions given at the first Annual Session of the Association by Rev. D.L. Hewett and the Rev. G.T. Hickman was terse and to the point: "Dear Brethern, Your committee begs leave to report as follows: It is time that Baptists of our state wake up to the mission cause to the building up of God's kingdom on earth, and to the spread of the Gospel."

There were ten churches comprising the association and mission gifts totaling \$9.15 were reported at the first session. In 1900 a strong emphasis on state missions was made at the annual session. Also, another plea was heard for increased giving to Home Missions so the work being done in "the manufacturing towns and cities springing up along our streams and railroads of the south" could be enlarged. There was a general call to send missionaries to "the heathen." At this same session the Executive Committee reported that each church had been encouraged to organize a "Missionary Board." Most had not done so. The Finance Committee reported mission gifts of \$33.42, or a gain of \$24.27 over 1899.

The minutes of 1901 reported a membership of 22 churches. At the Annual Session short reports were given on State, Home and Foreign Missions. The Finance Committee reported gifts to missions of \$15.89.

During the years just prior to and following the turn of the century, Brunswick County's economy was not flourishing. Gifts to all causes were small, but interest in missions had been aroused. News was reaching Brunswick County that women in other areas were venturing out to organize in order to promote missions. Money was scarce indeed, but women of the Brunswick Association realized that if they could not give large amounts they could study and pray for missions. Against this background our WMU came to be.

"On the 7th day of January, 1899, several of the ladies of the Antioch Baptist Church met at the public schoolhouse and organized a Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. Ida Swain was elected president. Mrs. Mary Ward, secretary, and Miss Annie Spencer, treasurer. Adjourned to meet at church." So read the first known minutes of a Woman's Missionary Society in the Brunswick Association.

It is not known when the Society at Southport Church organized. However, during the year 1899 mention is made in the Antioch Church, minutes of a society at Southport. There are no early minutes for the Southport Society, but older members of the church remember their mothers speaking of a society and that Mrs. Lina Robbins was its first president. They, of course, do not know the year of its organization.

Even though women's missions organizations were encouraged by the Mission Boards, men in the local churches and associations were fearful of the move and many were adamant in their opposition. Often the women were not allowed to hold their meetings in the church buildings but had to meet under the trees in good weather and in public schoolhouses at other times. A few men usually attended the women's meetings and led the religious exercises or devotional periods. Some men even became members of the societies.



Mrs. David (Mary) Ward,
Director 1902-1914.

On November 10, 1901, Miss Fannie Heck appointed Mrs. Mary Ward President of the Woman's Missionary Societies of the Brunswick Association. (The title Vice President later became President and then Superintendent. Since the fall of 1968 the term Director has been used).

Mrs. Ward lost no time in beginning the task that had been assigned to her. She encountered much opposition, even in her own family, but she preserved. On November 8, 1902, while the association was in session at Jennies Branch Church, the first annual session of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Brunswick Association was held. The women met in the schoolhouse near the church. Mrs. Ward presided and Miss Mary Ward served as secretary.

At this first session the meeting was opened with the reading of Isaiah 35 and Rev. D. L. Hewett led in prayer. It was reported that at the time there were four missionary societies in the association. Two were represented by letters and delegates and two just by letters. The names of the societies were not given but there is reason to believe that they were Antioch, Southport, Lebanon and Beulah. It was reported that \$66.06 had been given to missions by these four societies.

The second session of the new organization was held the following year on October 16 in Daws Creek Academy near Lebanon Church where the 5th Annual Session of the Brunswick Baptist Association was being held. Mrs. David Ward, the Associational Vice President, could not be present and Mrs. S. M. Robbins of Southport presided. Miss Mary Ward was secretary. Upon roll call of the churches, it was found that all four societies were represented by delegates. Again the names of the societies are not given. A letter from Miss Heck stated that the Brunswick societies had given \$64.72 to mission causes during the 1901-02 church year.

Mrs. Ward continued in her efforts to organize WMU work all over the Association. In 1906 Mrs. J. J. Loughlin moved to the area and was zealous in helping Mrs. Ward. Transportation presented problems. Mrs. Loughlin would leave her home in Southport, travel on the Steamer Wilmington to the Orton Landing and there Mrs. Ward would meet her with horse and buggy. Together Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Loughlin would spend the day visiting women and encouraging them to begin WMU work, returning to Mrs. Ward's home before nightfall. The next day Mrs. Loughlin would be taken back to Orton Landing to catch the steamer and then go on to her home in Southport.

In 1907 there were seven societies and Sunbeam Bands. The churches reporting were Southport, Bethel, Antioch and Mill Creek. In 1908 there were 15 organizations at the annual session.

By 1911 much emphasis was being placed by the Southern Baptist Convention on youth work in WMU. Brunswick Association followed that lead by YWA and Sunbeam Bands being especially strong. Mrs. Ward's 1911 report stated: "The societies, 19 in number, are connected with the churches at Southport, Bethel, Antioch, Brunswick, Lebanon, Beulah, Mt. Pisgah, Cool Run, New Life, Poley Bridge and Prospect."

In 1914 missions libraries were being promoted by Woman's Missionary Union because of the need for the dissemination of missionary information. At our annual session Mrs. George Hickman read a paper entitled "The Associational Library."

By 1927, the associational organization had expanded from three to eight officers. Mrs. B. R. Page was serving as Superintendent and at this session reported as follows: "The report of the officers showed a great increase in the work during the past year. We have finished raising our scholarship Fund for the WMU Training School in Louisville. Since no girl in our association was ready to use it the Union has adopted Miss Ora Parker of Monroe, North Carolina, as our Training School girl. She is at Louisville Training School now." These minutes also stated: "A letter was received from Miss Ora Parker in the Louisville Training School expressing her appreciation for the use of the Mary Ward Memorial Fund in aiding her to attend school."

The 1928 report has this to say: "Many of our women attended camp in August and took advantage of the class in WMU Manual taught by Mrs. H. T. Brinson."

The 1934 minutes of the Brunswick Association were dedicated to Mrs. Mary Curtis Ward who had organized the Associational WMU. Mrs. Ward had become 81 years of age on October 12, 1934. "Mother Ward", as she was lovingly called by the women of the association, died in 1937, and in 1938 during the 50th Anniversary of WMU, \$103.38 was given for China Relief as a memorial to her.

Mission study and youth organizations began to claim much of the interest and support of WMU in the association. In 1943 the WMU Council began holding Leadership Conferences to train women in the local churches.

In 1946 the WMU report of Mrs. Martin Robbins, Superintendent, stated in part as follows: "This year, for the first time, associational GA's and RA's Rallies were held. This idea was born in the heart of Mrs. Ernest Gilbert, and was made possible by the untiring efforts of Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Alex Bogie." Mrs. Bogie was GA's Counselor and Rev. Dennis Hewett was RA Counselor. Again, in 1947, the minutes show an ever increasing interest in



*Sunbeam Band,
Prospect Church 1913.*

camps and conclaves for youth under the direction of Mrs. Bogie, Rev. Hewett and Mrs. M. A. Mintz (Lillian Mabry).

As late as 1950, the statistics showed that the number of churches with WMU organizations continued to fluctuate, with work fading out in some churches and then being reorganized again. Great emphasis continued to be placed on youth work. Overnight camps for GA's and RA's were introduced, as were Mother-Daughter Banquets and Father-Son Banquets. In closing her report at the 52nd Annual Associational meeting, Mrs. Martin Robbins, the WMU Superintendent, said: "This report would not be complete without mentioning the faithful work of our Young Peoples Leader, Mrs. Dewey Robbins, and our R. A. Counselor, Mrs. Jewell McKeithan. I believe they are leading our young people into places of joyous responsibilities."

Mrs. Margaret McRackan was elected Superintendent at the 1950 annual session. She had replaced Mrs. Herbert Baker who moved from Brunswick County. Mrs. McRackan served a little over two year and then resigned to become Associational Missionary for the Brunswick Association. Mrs. Dennis Hewett was chosen to succeed Mrs. McRackan as Superintendent, and served half a year. Mrs. Claude Gore then followed her as Superintendent for the year 1954.

By 1956, Mrs. Leroy Hooks, Superintendent, reported 21 missionary societies, and that these and the youth organizations were progressing. A Mission Study Institute was held to train teachers for mission study classes to be held in the local churches. These institutes continued to be held for several year.

In the next five years, with Mrs. Leroy Price as Superintendent, soul-winning was the special emphasis. More training opportunities were offered and more women took advantage of them. In 1959 the WMU Council began the practice of entertaining all pastors of the association and their wives, and all the presidents and their husbands, at a dinner meeting during the month of November. At this dinner WMU work and missions in general were promoted by the Council.

In 1963, the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, was observed. Council members acquired costumes of the period and wore them for celebration occasions in the Annual WMU Session, and as various churches acknowledged the anniversary on the local level. The Southport society had a special celebration honoring all those who had served as president of the organization. Several of these women were present, as was Mrs. Mary Robbins Bellamy, daughter of their first president, Mrs. S. M. (Lina) Robbins.

In 1965, Mrs. Catherine King, Superintendent, showed in her report that out of the 37 churches making up the Association that 25 had at least one WMU organization. GA work under the direction of Mrs. Ann Price and Sunbeam work under the direction of Mrs. Ozalia Phelps were especially strong.

In 1967 the time of the annual session was changed to late afternoon and evening instead of morning and early afternoon. This enabled many of the working women to arrange to attend all or part of the sessions. By having the featured guest to speak at the evening hour, men and youth of the association could avail themselves of the opportunity to attend. We continue to follow this plan.

In October 1968, Mrs. Susie Carson took up her duties as Director. This was the first time the term "director" had been used to designate the leader of WMU work in the association and in the churches. It was in keeping with the changing terminology suggested for all program organizations in Southern Baptist churches.

This was a time of changes and choices. New age-groupings were introduced for all organizations. There were also new magazines, new methods and new reporting systems. All this, of course, caused much confusion and many meetings and consultations were held by the WMU Council in order to clarify the changes.

In the spring of 1969, the 67th Annual Session of the Brunswick WMU was held at Mt. Pisgah Church. More than 143 persons from 22 churches attended the evening meeting at which Mrs. Judson Lennon, missionary to Thailand, spoke. Mrs. McRackan was back with us as special guest. She spoke at the afternoon session, bringing the devotional message. The Director reported 21 churches had at least one WMU organization and 96 women had been reached for mission study through several associational classes.

The 1970 Annual Session, meeting at Old Shallotte Church, was dedicated to the memory of "Mother Ward", our first associational leader. Her son Carl, her granddaughter Mrs. John Carr Davis, and her great granddaughter Jane Brittain, were guests at the meeting. Miss Faye Tunmire, missionary to the Philippines, was guest

speaker.

The Director's report to the association in the fall of 1971 showed that during the church year 1970-71 much emphasis had been placed on training WMU leaders for local churches. All six manuals were taught by Council members at Antioch Church and a problem-solving clinic was held at Supply Church.

The Pastor's and Directors Dinner that year was held at Southport Church. Miss Sara Ann Hobbs, State WMU Secretary, was the featured speaker. Another highlight was the Annual Meeting held at Calvary where Rev. and Mrs. Troy Bennett, on furlough from Pakistan, were guest speakers.

In April of 1971, the Brunswick Association sponsored a World Missions Conference and the WMU Council served as hostesses for a Missions Rally held on Saturday preceding the conference. In October 1972, Mrs. Bryan Smith succeeded Mrs. Carson as director. All regular activities of the Council were maintained and in addition there was a special Acteens Emphasis in December, a BYW Banquet, a GA Day Camp, and an Enlistment-Enlargement Clinic. Organizations for each age-level were begun at Soldier Bay Church and Shallotte First Church. A Baptist Women was organized at Calvary Church.

When Mrs. Smith made her report to the General Association in the fall of 1973, the Association was celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Several members of the WMU Council, dressed in costumes of 1898, acted as ushers.

The Brunswick WMU received Distinguished WMU recognition, the highest rating given under the Achievement Guide, in 1974.

In 1975 Mrs. Smith's report showed a continued interest in all associational gatherings for inspiration, training and fellowship. Attendance at the Annual Session in the spring was 178.

The Wendall Parkers, missionaries to Guatemala, were guest speakers at the 1976 annual session held at Southport Church. At that time they told of the devastation in Guatemala resulting from recent earthquakes. Mrs. Smith issued a challenge to raise \$500 to rebuild one of the churches destroyed by the earthquakes. The challenge was accepted and within a few short weeks, and before the Parkers returned to Guatemala, more than \$1900.00 had been raised for the project.

Another highlight of 1976 was the response made by Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women to a call from State leaders to help provide Christmas gifts for inmates of the Women's Prison in Raleigh.

The 75th Annual Session was held at Jennies Branch Church on April 21, 1977, using as its theme, "Looking Forward Through Our WMU Past." Several former council members took part on the program, including Mrs. Margaret C. McRackan. The history of our organization, written by Susan Carson, was presented. A pageant, "Only Yesterday - 75 Years Ago", by Jackie Smith, the outgoing director, was performed by some of the Council members. Nancy Curtis, State WMU Executive Secretary, was the featured speaker.

The reports printed in the program booklet showed a total of 103 organizations (all age levels) and 1163 as total membership. Among the events offered that year on an associational basis were a Missions Fair, Prayer Retreats, GA Day Camp, Hobby and Craft Sharing Time, Missions Banquet, Leadership Training, Mission Studies, Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women Clinic, and a Meeting Improvement Clinic.

In her 1978 Director's report, Mrs. Ruth Craig mentioned that teaching missions had been the special emphasis for the year and that Bold Mission Thrust had been the theme.

Mrs. Craig's report for 1979 recorded leadership training, a Mission Study Institute, prayer retreat, many classes for the home and foreign missions graded series, a "Praise-Sing" for Acteens, an Acteens Banquet, and a Director Evangelism Workshop. Five of our Acteens, after a lot of hard work to raise enough money for expenses, attended the first National Acteens Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. One of the girls served as a page in the North Carolina delegation.

At the 1980 session, the Director reported several highlights. Missionary Alan Compton spoke in the association during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions; the Council hosted a snack supper for the Stewardship Team of the N.C. State Convention as a part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Convention, and a study of WMU History was held at Town Creek Church. Later a prayer retreat was held at the Baptist Assembly at Caswell and the Council members served as hostesses at the opening of the Jennifer Brown Emergency Care

Home at Supply. Fifteen Baptist Women gathered at the Supply Church and sewed curtains for the staff house at the Caswell Assembly. Mrs. Jean Teague, former missionary to Gaza, spoke at our Annual Meeting at Bolivia church on September 18, 1980. Mrs. Teague has now been recalled to the mission field.

The WMU report given in October 1981, showed a full year of enthusiastic happenings. The Starteam Plan of the Woman's Missionary Union (SBC) was introduced. The purpose of Starteam was to encourage pastors and local leaders to begin WMU work in churches where there is none. At least 14 churches in the Brunswick Association reported no WMU work. The self-assigned task was not to be an easy one, but the goal was to have all of these 14 churches with at least one age-level organization by the fall of 1983.

There seemed to be a special sense of urgency and delight throughout the association in serving our Lord in missions. Gifts for the North Carolina Women's Correctional Center for Christmas tripled the number requested and the surplus could be shared with other institutions. The Mission Banquet for Pastors and Directors was one of the best, as was the Missions Fair held in May. The 1981 meeting truly was exceptional in many ways. Our main speaker was Dr. Timothy Pennell of North Carolina Baptist Hospital who gives so much of his personal time to missions.

Much praise is given to our Lord for enabling us to do his work. Much credit is to be given to the tireless and dedicated Council members who led in every phase of the activities of the society.

Now, as we continue in organized WMU service to this association, we continue to write history. The task is still not easy; much remains to be done. We face barriers and the stress of living in a much more complex world than that of 1902, but our Source of strength is the same as it was for those gallant and dedicated women of that day as they faced their barriers. We believe that W.M.U. was ordained of God as an instrument for helping to carry out his Great Commission. As Miss Fannie Heck said so often, let's "Go Forward!"

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS*

Antioch
Mrs. Bessie Williams
Mrs. Lucy Lewis
Mrs. Mae Parsons
Mrs. Viva Lewis

Bolivia
Mrs. Evie Walton

Calvary
Mrs. Ruby Presnell
Mrs. Lillian Hewett
Mrs. Erma Pigott
Mrs. Cora Frin

Friendship
Mrs. Jackie Smith

Goshen
Mrs. Eula Lennon
Mrs. Ryda Lennon

Jennies Branch
Mrs. Sara Truesdale
Mrs. Erma Mintz
Mrs. Rachel Bennett

Lebanon
Mrs. Martha Caison

Mill Creek
Mrs. Esther Mae Willetts
Miss Pauline Lewis
Mrs. Alda S. Lewis
Mrs. Marjorie Willetts
Mrs. Mae Moore
Mrs. Linnie Mae Johnson
Mrs. Vallie Gore
Mrs. Elneta Lewis
Mrs. Ira Willetts
Mrs. Ruth Caison

Supply
Mrs. Thelma Galloway
Mrs. Alice Hedgecock
Mrs. Muriel Lennon



Mrs. Jackie Smith



Mrs. Susan S. Carson

Mt. Pisgah
Mrs. Gertie Mooney
Mrs. Mollie Holden
Mrs. Rosa Brown
Mrs. Janie Paker
Mrs. Irene Cumbee
Mrs. Lillie Royal
Mrs. Josie Holden
Mrs. Susan Carter
Mrs. Coyet Gray
Mrs. Ethel Hewett

Oak Island
Mrs. Ruth Presson
Mrs. Grace Shurley
Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins
Mrs. Beulah Ferrell
Mrs. Emily Hendrix
Mrs. Grace Foulk

Old Shallotte
Miss Ruth Ludlum

Shallotte First
Mrs. Inez S. Gray
Mrs. Elba Hawes
Mrs. Mary Etta Bennett
Mrs. Edna J. Bennett

Shell Point
Mrs. Velma L. Robinson

Southport
Mrs. Jerri Hartwig
Mrs. Lavada Nieto
Mrs. Edith Kirby
Mrs. Gertrude Blake
Mrs. Eunice Huntley
Mrs. Susan Carson
Mrs. Gertrude Loughlin
Mrs. Jessie Swan
Mrs. Mildred Ludlum
Mrs. Maxine Fulcher
Mrs. Mary Oliver
Mrs. Cassie Cochran
Mrs. Marjorie Livingston
Mrs. Leola Pickerrell

* As of 1982

DIRECTORS OF ASSOCIATIONAL W.M.U.

1902 - 1914	Mrs. David (Mary Curtis) Ward
1915 - 1920	Mrs. J. L. Simmons
1921	No minutes
1922	No officers shown
1923	Mrs. Carl (May Price) Ward
1924-1925	No officers shown
1926-1927	Mrs. B. R. (Sue Thomas) Page
1928	Mrs. Carl Ward
1929-1932	Mrs. B. R. Page
1933	Mrs. T. H. Biles
1934-1937	Miss Ruth Ludlum
1938-1939	Mrs. B. R. Page
1940-1942	Mrs. Carol Ward
1943-1947	Mrs. Martin Robbins
1948-1950	Mrs. Herbert Baker
1951-1952	Mrs. Margaret C. McRackan
1953	Mrs. Dennis Hewett
1954	Mrs. Claude (Ivey) Gore
1955-1958	Mrs. LeRoy (Mildred) Hooks
1959-1963	Mrs. LeRoy (Ann M.) Price
1964-1967	Mrs. Norman (Catherine) King
1968-1971	Mrs. Susan S. Carson
1972-1977	Mrs. Bryan (Jackie) Smith Jr.
1978-1979	Mrs. James D. (Ruth) Craig
1979-1983	Mrs. Susan S. Carson
1984-1986	Mrs. Marvin (Rebecca) Chapman
1986-1987	Mrs. Susan S. Carson
1988-1999	Mrs. Bryan (Jackie) Smith Jr.



WMU Associational Meeting at Mill Creek Church, 1910

COUNTY HOME

Since the beginning of the Brunswick Baptist Association the welfare and care of others has been at the center of its missionary work. In order to be successful in Home and Foreign Missions a firm foundation must be laid at the associational level. One area of emphasis was the ministry to the County Home. There has always been a great deal of public sentiment toward the poor, the homeless and the incapacitated.

In December 1840 the Brunswick County Superior Court appointed a commission to "take into consideration the best mode of taking care of the poor of the county and to the expenses of building a poor house for that purpose." It is not known whether the county implemented steps immediately to secure a site and build such accommodations.

It is known that a "poor house" existed from the 1870's. In 1878 Elisha Sellers submitted a bill to the county for services rendered. The 1880 census had a Poor House entry with 11 residents listed.

The old county home was located on the Old Georgetown Road (now Galloway Road) about half way between Bolivia and Supply. The site is about one half mile North and West of the Brunswick Community College campus near the run of Clark's Branch in a large field referred to as the Coleman Field. It consisted of 50 acres of land, 11 of which were under fence and four buildings. Located to the East and on the same road was Shiloh Baptist Church.

The 1908 minutes of the Associational Meeting at Mt. Pisgah Church on October 15 had a report from the Executive Board which stated that they had decided to use the State Mission money in the bounds of our Association. This may have been used to pay preachers to preach at the county home or it could have been used to continue aid to Camp Branch and Little Zoar churches.

Meeting at Southport Church on October 12-14, 1909 the Executive Board reported on the first day that at their second meeting on the 27th of November they decided to use the State Mission money in the bounds of the Association and ordered that Rev. E.L. Swain be sent to the county home to preach to the inmates. At their fourth meeting Rev. E.L. Swain made a report of three trips to the county home for which he was paid \$15.00.

On October 14, 1909 it was ordered that a committee be appointed to report on supplying the county home with preaching. J.M. Long, I.W. Harrelson and G.F. Drew were appointed. They asked the Association to furnish the home with preaching at least once a month and recommended that Rev. J.O. Fulbright be selected to serve. The committee further suggested that each church in the Association take a liberal contribution to defray the expenses of Rev. Fulbright.

During the evening session on October 15, 1910 at Beulah Church a resolution was adopted to supply the county home with preaching monthly and that each church take two collections to defray expenses. A committee consisting of L.M. Todd, Y.C. Rich and A.P. Thomas was appointed to settle with Rev. J.O. Fulbright for preaching. He would be paid out of the Associational Mission funds. The statistical tables showed an amount of \$14.24 in the fund.

The 1911 Associational meeting was held at Brunswick Church (Mill Creek) on October 12-15. At the evening sessions on the 14th it was ordered that the Associational Mission funds be used to defray expenses of supplying the county home with preaching. Rev. J.L. Jenkins, pastor of Southport Church, was employed to preach at the Home for the ensuing year at a salary of \$24.00 to be paid quarterly. The fund at that time had an amount of \$16.56. Again it was ordered that each church be asked to take a collection each month to help pay the expenses of Rev. Jenkins.

No other minutes mention the county home. In the 1912 minutes the Executive Board ordered that the Associational Mission fund be used to defray expenses of printing the minutes as there was a shortage in the minute fund.

The Brunswick I Association existed from 1886-1894. The 1893 meeting was held at Soldier Bay Church on October 27 and 28. The Executive Board recommended that all of the churches help Shiloh Church in sustaining her pastor, as many of that church are paupers of the county, living at the home of the aged and infirmed of the county. The Finance Committee received \$1.80 for Associational Missions which was paid by the Treasurer to Rev. D.L. Hewett, pastor of Shiloh Church. The church paid him a salary of \$8.00.

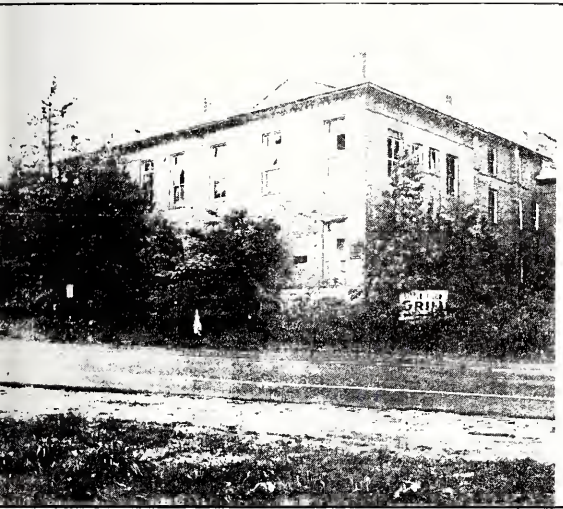
Sometime after 1940 a new county home was built in Southport, NC.

During the 1950's and 1960's the county home was again served by the churches of the Association. Regular services of preaching and singing were held on Sunday afternoon. Churches were on a rotation system of visitation. There is no county home today, however, several churches holds services at the local nursing homes.

DELL SCHOOL

Dell School was a Baptist Academy at Delway, Sampson County, NC. After two years of preparation, the school opened on September 2, 1902 with Rev. C.M. Beach as principal. The school was chartered by the state legislature and admitted in 1909 to the system of secondary Baptist schools established by the Baptist State Convention.

Opening with 95 students from five North Carolina counties and from two states, 40 of the students boarded at the school. Board averaged \$13 per month and room, board and tuition for a nine-month term was \$190. The school closed during the 1918 influenza epidemic but reopened in 1919. Better roads, more automobiles and improved public schools forced the closing of Dell School in 1923.



The school was supported by the Brunswick Baptist Association from 1908 until it closed. In 1908 a brick building and dormitories, with electric lightning and indoor plumbing replaced the original frame structure. A large number of the student body was from Brunswick County. Many were WWI veterans such as H.L. Clemmons and Hubert Sellers who took business courses. Others attending were Harvey, Gladys and Clarence Jenrette and Walter D. Potter.

Believing that education is assured and regarded as a necessary agency in the growth of God's kingdom on earth, Rev. C.M. Branch spoke at the 1913 Annual Meeting. Afterwards a resolution was adopted that the churches of the association be requested to raise as much as \$50.00 for the Dell School.

On Saturday morning, October 16, 1915 L.B. Olive of Dell School spoke to the Annual Meeting at Antioch Baptist Church. He made a very helpful and timely talk on Christian Education.

At the 1917 Annual Meeting Rev. Ivan L. Bennett, principal, represented the Dell School. Rev. Lloyd M. Holloway resigned as a member of the Board of Trustees and Rev. B.R. Page was elected in his place. The moderator, Issac Jenrette ordered all money in the hands of the treasurer for Christian Education be turned over to Rev. Bennett for the Dell School. The amount given to him was \$5.23.

In 1920 Rev. B.R. Page presented a resolution calling for the Association to endorse by cooperation and support the following plan of effort of Dell School: 1. That the dormitories provide adequately for the necessary comfort of the student body and the growing patronage of the institution; 2. That a chemical laboratory be provided that will make possible the carrying on of a practical science course in the curriculum of the school; 3. That the Board of Trustees take under advisement the purchase of 30 or more acres of land near the school with view to adding agriculture and domestic science to the present curriculum of the school.

At the 24th Annual Session, Rev. J.J. Adams made an appeal to future ministers to consider attending Dell School to better help them prepare to be pastors. Before undertaking to pastor a church he advised them to sharpen your ax." Any young man who wants to become a minister and has passed the age to go to the state high school and is not prepared to go to Wake Forest, even if married, can arrange to go to Dell School for a small amount of money.

Today the Dell School is a long-vacant building that last served as a country general store and was closed when an adjacent school building was torn down to make way for a wider highway. More than 70 former students and faculty members held a reunion on June 5, 1976 in the Rose Hill Restaurant in Rose Hill, NC. Among those in attendance was Nelson Bennett of Shallotte, a former student.

Education is regarded as a necessary agency in the growth of God's kingdom on earth. Dell School provided an opportunity for the men and women of Brunswick County to become leaders in the association as well as in their church.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

Long before churches had kitchens and fellowship halls and indoor plumbing there was dinner on the grounds.

A flurry of activities took place in the home approximately two days before the planned event. Women began baking pies and cakes, killing chickens and preparing them for stewing or frying and trying their best to outdo their neighbor's cooking in order to receive compliments and rave reviews from fellow church members.

The men loaded up the saw horses and boards used to erect the long tables that would groan under the load of food. Washtubs were cleaned and filled with soft drinks waiting for ice to be added just before leaving for church. A burlap bag over the top kept the ice from melting and promised a colder drink. Earlier in the century ice tea, and sometimes lemonade, quenched the thirst of many people.

Associational meetings, Unions and Singing Conventions were occasions for dinner on the grounds. The host church was responsible for feeding the attendees. Before the turn of the century messengers stayed in the homes of members of the community.

Early minute books, those prior to 1900, included a statement of thanks to the people of the church and community for the hospitality offered in the form of food and housing. Many years enough minute books were printed to be distributed to those in the community who had opened their homes to the messengers.

In 1901 a resolution was unanimously adopted that a vote of thanks be tendered the good sisters, brethren and neighbors of the (Old) Shallotte community for the very hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body while in session.

At a later association meeting Bro. R.M. Wescott offered as a resolution the following: There is another factor, however, which cannot be forgotten. And that is the full attendance, the cheerful crowd and the happy support given by the community to the association and especially the beautifully spread heavily laden tables of choice eatables to satisfy the inner man furnished by the good ladies for which they have the individual thanks of the Association and we pray God for their temporal

prosperity and everlasting joy behind this scene of action.

At the 1932 meeting at Bethel Church Mrs. T.H. Biles recited the poem, "Dinner on the Ground," before the recess for the noon meal.

The 1937 assembly expressed their heartfelt thanks to the Mill Creek Church and community for the very bountiful manner in which they have cared for both the spiritual and physical needs of each visitor and delegate present.

An indication of the importance of the noon meal was included in the 1940 minutes. The Clerk noted that the Association then took a recess till 1:30 p.m., when a very bounteous dinner was spread and enjoyed by all present.

At Longwood Church on October 21, 1942 the Association then took recess till 2:00 p.m. During the recess a very sumptuous and bountiful dinner was served on the ground to the delegates and visitors in attendance.

The next year, 1943, Lebanon Church apparently tried to outdo Longwood Church. The Clerk, John Jenrette, wrote that the Association then took a recess till 2:00 p.m. Dismissed by prayer lead by S.I. Mintz, when all present were invited to a well-filled table and a sumptuous dinner prepared by the good ladies of the community and everyone partook freely to their own satisfaction and after all this "twelve baskets remained."

The good ladies of Mill Creek Church and community in 1946 spread a very fine and plentiful dinner and everybody was invited to the table. C.S. Smith gave thanks and all partook freely.

In 1947 the congregation was invited over to the Southport Community Building where the good people of Southport prepared a nice lunch and served it in the old Southern style with hot coffee.

The 1949 annual session was held October 19, 1949 at Sabbath Home Church. The good ladies of the church and community spread a very nice and bountiful lunch for the Association and served it on the grounds in "fish fry" style and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly. The next day at Leland Church the lunch was spread in the main hallway and served in the old picnic style with hot coffee.

Regardless of the style or place all who partook freely of the sumptuous and bountiful meals were satisfied and enjoyed the fellowship of each other.



UNION MEETINGS AND SINGING CONVENTIONS

The Union was originally begun over a hundred years ago. Sessions met on the fifth Saturday in each quarter and lasted all day. Preaching and singing were the main activities of the day. Dinner on the grounds at noon served as a time of relaxation and fellowship. People came to the meetings by walking, mule carts and horse and buggy. With the advent of the automobile more people were able to attend. The Union, confined to the churches of the western part of the county, helped to fill a void in the lives of church people.



The Melodaires, a quartet from Sabbath Home Church. (Left to Right) Jackie Fulford, Don Marie Fulford, Toy Lane Hewett, Geraldine Lancaster, Shirley Corbett. Picture taken at Prospect Church, 1959.

For many years the singing convention would meet for Sunday School and preaching in the morning and then after dinner would assemble for singing. In later years it became a custom of meeting only in the afternoon for the singing convention.

The churches in the Union sent delegates to represent them and to assist in the business that came before the assembly. Delegates carried a letter from the church. The letter contained information about the church. It might tell of the growth of the church, revival plans, ideas to share, recent activities of the church and sometimes a request to host the next session of the Union. A small offering was included to help cover the cost of printing the program and postage.

Marilyn Swain, last Clerk of the Union, wrote in the last minutes that the Union would go down in history as a vital part of our Association and would be remembered by all who supported the Union.

Early church records indicate the Union was meeting as early as May, 1889. It is likely it began much earlier as several churches were organized before this date. It is known that the Union met continuously until July 30, 1994.

Annual minutes tell that the Executive Board of the Association met as a group during the Union meetings. This is recorded for the years 1910 when they met at Oak Grove and Cool Run churches and in 1912 when they met the Saturday before the fifth Sunday in March at Regan Church.

In the early years that followed, the Union felt it would be better to have two days of gathering. The first day would be the Union program, consisting of a devotional time, reading the letters sent by the churches, a business session and preaching followed by a second day of singing. During the day of singing each church would send a choir or a musical group to sing. Groups sang in rotation allowing each to sing several songs.



Rev. Lindsey M. Clemmons, longtime singing convention moderator.

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST ASSEMBLY AT FORT CASWELL

Although not a church as such, the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell serves as a place of worship for thousands of people each year as they come for its varied programs of teaching, training, music, worship and recreation. Worship services are held atop the old fort and in two auditoriums.

In 1824 the United States Government took title to the land now occupied by the North Carolina Baptist Assembly. A fort, called Fort Caswell, was built to protect the mouth of the Cape Fear River and the town of Wilmington located 24 miles upstream.

The fort was named for Richard Caswell, first Governor of North Carolina, a member of the Continental Congress and an officer in the American Revolution.

During the Civil War, Fort Caswell was in the possession of the Confederacy. After World War I, the nation could readily see that forts were useless for protection. The government in 1924 sold Fort Caswell after holding title for one hundred years. However, at the beginning of World War II the government took back a portion of this land for Coast Guard use.

In 1949, North Carolina Baptist bought Fort Caswell, consisting of 248 acres, from the United States Government. Counting the purchase price of \$86,000, North Carolina Baptist now have more than one million dollars invested in buildings and grounds. Best of all, from a fortification build by the government to safeguard our American way of life we now see a great Christian educational and training program emerging that will indeed help safeguard the best of our Christian heritage.

Through hurricane Hazel, among other storms and many growing pains Dr. Richard K. Redwine guided the assembly for the first seven years. In 1956 the Baptist State Convention changed its name to "The North Carolina Baptist Assembly." Many Baptist know it as "The Assembly By The Sea."

Inspiration and Christian education is the most important function of the assembly. Recreation offers fun and relaxation. The purpose of the Assembly is to strengthen and advance the work of Christ as it is being done through the churches, boards, and agencies of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. This is accomplished through classes, conferences, programs which include inspirational, evangelistic and commitment services. The programs are planned for the development of leaders and future leaders of the churches. Since many children and youth attend the Assembly programs, numbers of conversions and life commitments are made each year. The hundreds who attend return to their churches dedicated to their work, informed for their tasks, and motivated to render greater service for Christ.

Following the retirement of Dr. Redwine, in 1955, Mr. Fred Smith assumed the growing responsibility of assembly management. Great strides were made in making the buildings and grounds more beautiful and useful to an ever-increasing number of assembly users. Programs were planned and carried out by State Convention personnel based at The Baptist State Convention headquarters in Raleigh. (Today, the State Convention offices are located in Cary, NC)

In 1977, Mr. Tom McKay became Assembly Director. He continued the work started by Dr. Redwine and Mr. Smith. Hatch Auditorium, focal point of the assembly, was built at a cost of \$400,000. An auditorium with a seating capacity of one thousand provides a worship experience for large conferences. Dedicated on July 17, 1968, it was made possible by a gift of Miss Rachel E. Hatch in her will. Miss Hatch, an Episcopalian, once said: "Baptists have their hands on the pulse of humanity and seek to touch the needs of the people."

A new cafeteria was built in the summer of 1978. Guests now have a choice of cooking for themselves, eating in a cafeteria, or dining in the lodge restaurant.

In May, 1986 a new church group apartment building was dedicated. Situated just yards from the Cape Fear River and looking toward Bald Head Island, this building will accommodate 36 people. The building was made possible because of a generous gift in excess of \$100,000 by Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Webb of Mt. Airy, NC.

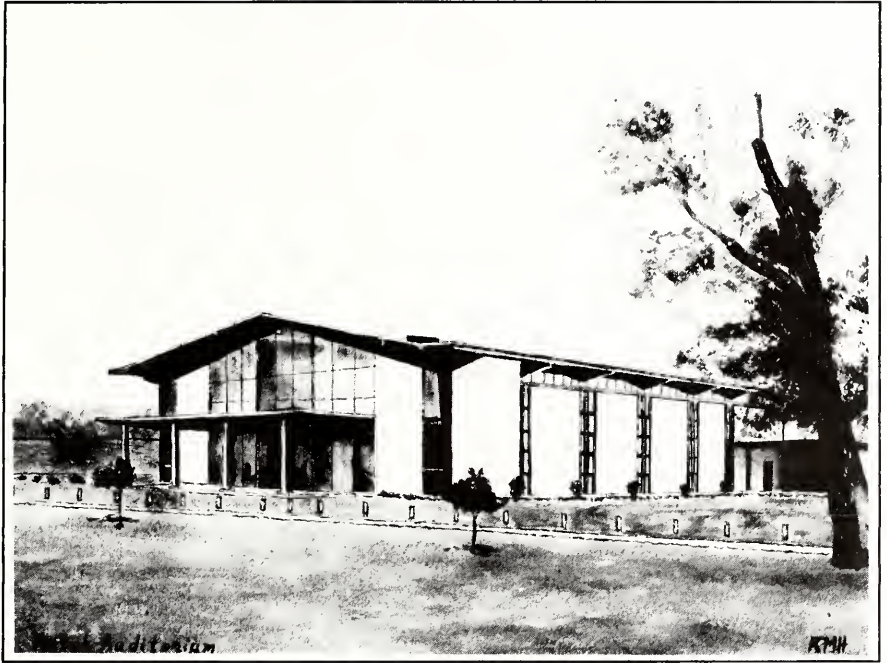
The Webbs, members of First Baptist Church, Mt. Airy, asked that the new cottage be named in honor of Dr. Richard K. Redwine, first director of Caswell, 1949-1955. Before assuming the Caswell directorship, Dr. Redwine was pastor of First Baptist church, Mt. Airy, NC.

A new classroom building was dedicated in August, 1987. The building is the first phase of a \$2 million building project that will include a conference center. It is an H-shaped structure with a total of 32 classrooms. The total cost of construction was \$488,000.

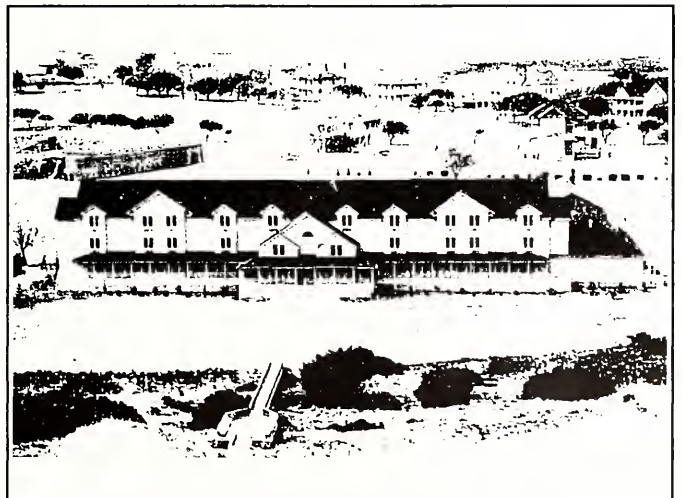
The newest addition to the Assembly grounds was dedicated on September 26, 1989 as the Fred and Eudell Smith Conference Building. Mr. Fred Smith served as manager of the assembly for 20 years, from 1957-1977. The \$1.2 million structure faces the mouth of the Cape Fear River on the eastern tip of Oak Island. Approximately 250 people attended the dedication ceremony which recognized the late Mr. Smith and his wife, Eudell.

In the summer of 1983, a complete history of Fort Caswell and the Assembly, titled, "Fort Caswell In War and Peace", was published. Mrs. Ethel Herring, a long-time assembly goer, wrote the book, ably assisted by Ms. Carolee Williams, an historical planner.

"....they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."
(Isaiah 2:4 ASV)



Former barracks used for overnight stays.



Fred and Eudell Smith Conference Building.

Antioch Baptist Church

Est. 1867

In the year 1867, Rev. John P. Lennon and a small group of people met in a school building near the Midway intersection for the purpose of organizing a church. The first church building, located at Surburb, NC., was a wooden rectangular structure with four classrooms, bell, belfry and a seating capacity of 200. Rev. Lennon served as pastor from 1867-71. Charter members were from the Woodside, Roberts and Smith families. The church has reported a Sunday School since 1869 and a WMU since 1900.

During the ministry of Rev. E.W. Pate of Wilmington, NC (1934-1940) the interior of the church was remodeled. Six classrooms were added, a communion service was purchased, pews were put in the sanctuary and the old benches were used in the Sunday School classrooms.

Rev. S.H. Coward of Wilmington was pastor (1940-1945) during the construction of the present church building which stands about a mile north of the place of original organization. The church was dedicated on February 25, 1945. New pews and pulpit furniture were installed in 1950.

Rev. Earl Helms became the first full-time pastor, moving into the new pastorium on June 20, 1949.

During the 1950's improvements included landscaping of the grounds, rest rooms, carpet, new chairs for the classrooms, song books, choir robes, seats in choir loft, piano, baptistry picture and the use of a regular Sunday bulletin.

Rev. E.S. Lingle (1953-1955) was instrumental in the formation of the Howell's Point Mission. He met with the mission people for afternoon services. The church adopted the mission and helped erect a building. The deed for the building and land was transferred on October 27, 1967.

Groundbreaking services for the educational building, consisting of 14 classrooms, two bathrooms, a large modern kitchen, and fellowship hall, was added to the existing church building.

In 1970 a brick pastorium was built to replace the old wooden one.

During the summer of 1986 a bolt of lightning destroyed the newly-installed steeple. The fiberglass structure melted into the roof of the church before fire fighters arrived.

The church hosted a Celebration of Independence on June 26, 1988 to honor those who serve and represent Brunswick County government. An awareness conference on Buddhism was held August 28, 1988. A revival, with pastors representing Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, was held in April, 1988.

A church van was purchased in 1994. Renovations in Sunday School classrooms, addition of family mailboxes and parsonage improvements were completed during 1994 and 1995.

A church directory was made and a new sound system was purchased in 1997.

The Antioch Helping Hands Ministry, a soup kitchen with 10 volunteers, was begun in September, 1998. Another community activity was adopting Bolivia Elementary School through the Community in Schools program.

Church membership in 1868,8; in 1884, 29; in 1895, 52; in 1910, 90; in 1930, 107; in 1938, 163; in 1945, 220; in 1960, 300; in 1980, 342; and in 1998, 360.

Antioch was a member of the Cape Fear Association, 1868-1898; Cape Fear -Columbus Association, 1899; and received into the Brunswick Baptist Association in 1900.



BEACH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Est. 1989

Beach Road Baptist Church had its beginning as a mission in 1984. The move to organize a mission was headed by Rev. John Elder, pastor of the Southport Baptist Church at that time. Mr. and Mrs. Gus Swan and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knotts were among the group which left Southport Baptist Church to help with the mission and later became members. Rev. Robert Norton, a Southeastern Theological Seminary student, was the first pastor, with services being held at the Moose Lodge on Long Beach Road. The first service was on June 3, 1984. Services were later moved to a small house owned by Noah and Myrtle Jones. Some of the members remodeled the house. The average attendance was 25.

In 1984, Mr. Gil Barbee donated two and a half acres to the mission. The next year, a mobile unit was purchased and used as a sanctuary and a second

unit was loaned by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention for use as classrooms.



Rev. Johnny Roberts was called as the first full time pastor. When he left a year later Rev. Dave Cover, Rev. Jim Ellis and Rev. Bryan Doshier served as interim pastors until Rev. Ray Webb was called to the mission in July, 1988.

In April, 1989 the mission was constituted as a Southern Baptist Church, with a membership of 82. Plans soon followed to build a 7000-square foot facility. Groundbreaking was held on Sunday, March 4, 1990. Construction began in April, 1990.

Baptist Men of North Carolina, coordinated by Mr. Wayne Honeycutt, provided most of the labor needed to build the structure. Many of the Beach Road members provided labor and the women provided meals and drinks for the men. The structure was completed, and on Sunday, November 11, 1990, the first service was held in the new Beach Road Baptist Church building. In 1995, a fellowship hall was added to the present structure.

With a membership of over 500, the church voted to start construction of a \$500,000 sanctuary to be constructed next to the present structure.



Ray Webb
Pastor

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1839

Settlements in Brunswick County began years before the American Revolution. A small number of people settled along the lower Cape Fear River and on the various creeks feeding into it. Of course, some of these settlers were Baptists. However, they did not have an organized church in this immediate area, the nearest one being the Mill Creek Baptist Church.

In 1839 a group of concerned Christians, under the leadership of three devout men, Rev. Abel King, Mr. Lewis Wescott and Mr. Thomas Mason, came together for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church in their community.

A site near Dutchman's Creek was chosen and soon the men of the group had erected a "meeting house" of logs. In a meeting held on December 15,

1839, the name "Bethel" (meaning "House of God") was chosen for the name of the church. The church was then constituted and Mr. Lewis Wescott was named deacon and Mr. Robert McRackan became the first clerk. Rev. A. W. Nobles was the first resident pastor.

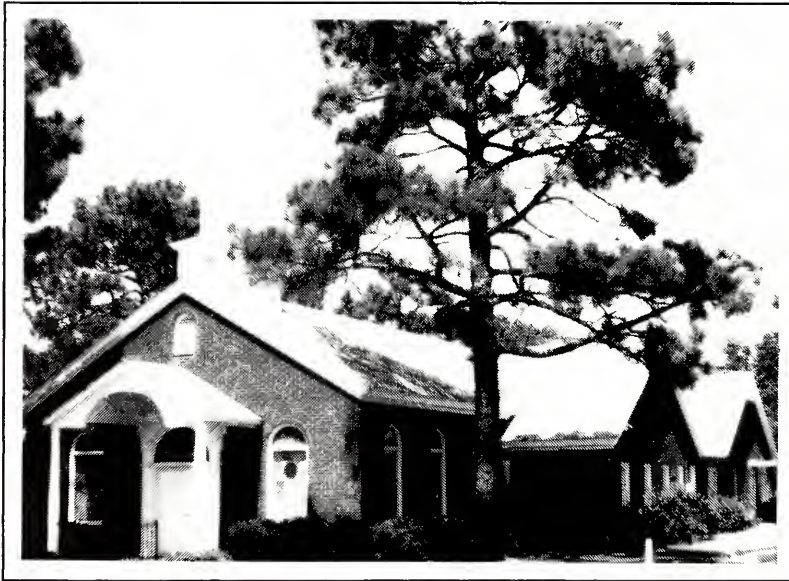
In the years 1871 and 1872 some members with the blessings of Bethel Church received their church letters for the purpose of establishing a church in Smithville now known as the Southport Baptist Church.

In conference held on November 15, 1953, the church voted to begin a building fund and then on July 1, 1954 the church voted in conference to use the building fund in the building of a new

church building. The church agreed to purchase the property on which the present church buildings stand. This was done in conference on December 5, 1954.

The first unit of the present church building was completed and the first worship service held on July 27, 1958. The first addition to the church building, an educational structure, was constructed in 1961. The second addition made to the educational building was constructed in 1974, bringing the church building to its present appearance.

The church leaders felt a need for Bethel to join with other Baptist churches for fellowship and service and two year after its organizing Bethel was admitted to the Cape Fear Association, which included churches as far away as Fayetteville. Soon that association was divided and our area became known as the Cape Fear-Columbus Association. In 1899 a further division was made and the Brunswick Baptist Association was formed. Many nearby churches that had been a part of the old association became members of the Brunswick Association. In 1930 Bethel came into the Brunswick Association and has been an active member since that time. Mr. Lewis Wescott and Mr. Robert McRackan were chosen as Bethel's first messengers to the Association.



BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1837

Beulah Baptist Church was constituted in 1837, at Thomasboro, NC. The first resident pastor was John Cain, 1837-39. A member of the Cape Fear Baptist Association, 1838-76, 1895-98; joined the Waccamaw Baptist Association, 1877-85; member of Old Brunswick Baptist Association, 1886-94; Cape Fear-Columbus Baptist Association, 1899; and present day Brunswick Baptist Association, 1899.

The first building, 1837-1907, was a frame structure. A new frame structure served 1907-25. The third



frame building was constructed in 1925, three miles east, at the present site on property donated by Mr. & Mrs. Manley Bennett. This wooden church building had a bell, belfry, plain glass windows, and a seating capacity of 150. In 1975, this building was moved and a new brick structure was constructed. On August 8, 1976, we held the first worship service in this beautiful new sanctuary.

Beulah Baptist Church has reported a Sunday School since 1897. Church membership was in 1839, 46; in 1899, 55; in 1910, 101; in 1938, 49; in 1960, 61; and in 1978, 118. Total receipts in 1978, \$11,483 and missions expenditures totaled \$1,095.

From 1962 until September of 1964, the church had sponsored the Calabash Baptist Mission. In 1967, the classroom-

fellowship building was erected.

On October 11, 1987, Beulah celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its founding. This special service was filled with music, worship, and fellowship. During the service former pastors were recognized, the church history was read. Rev. Jennis McLamb told stories of his childhood years growing up in Beulah, and special music was provided by the choir. The sermon was presented by Rev. Foyd Bennett and following this, dinner was served in the fellowship hall. After lunch a music service was presented by the choir. During this time, Rev. Odell Blanton presented the church with a plaque containing a poem entitled "Beulah Baptist Church, 150 years old," written by his wife Berta Blanton.

Although many Christian people have been instrumental in directing the churches progress, their efforts can never be evaluated. We do recognize that God, through the Holy Spirit, has blessed us all these years. We continue to pray that God's blessings will pour out on Beulah Baptist Church and that it may be ever more a lighthouse proclaiming Jesus Christ to the community.

Four men have been ordained into the Gospel Ministry: Rev. Luther Bennett, Rev. Jennis McLamb, Rev. C. Odell Blanton, and Rev. Foyd Bennett.



BOILING SPRING LAKES FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1965

A group of Baptist men and women met in May 1963 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hufham at Boiling Spring Lakes for the purpose of beginning religious services in the development. These meetings were held each Sunday in various homes until 1965 when the group was organized into a Baptist church by Mrs. Margaret McRackan, the Associational Missionary of the Brunswick Baptist Association. The church came under the watchcare of the Association.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. Bradley Suggs of Wilmington, N.C. who served for a few months in 1966. At this time the church members had moved to the Country Club building for Sunday school and worship services. Prayer meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pack each Wednesday evening.

The congregation was composed of 15 church members and others who were interested in the Lord's work. The second pastor was Rev. David Bays who remained one year.

In the spring of 1967 the church went together with the Lebanon Baptist Church nearby to form a field, and the two churches called Rev. George W. H. White as their pastor. A home for the pastor was purchased by the two churches and Brother White and his wife moved into the parsonage in April 1967. In December of that year he resigned the churches and moved to another field of work. At the close of Brother White's ministry there were 20 church members, and 26 were enrolled in Sunday School.

In December after Rev. White left, the church asked Rev. Tom Williams, a retired minister of Supply, NC, to serve as supply pastor. He served from December 1967 to June 1968, when he accepted the church as pastor until a regular pastor could be secured. In January 1968, the congregation moved into the parsonage for their services. Plans were made to construct a church building and work got under way in the summer of 1968.

In May 1968 Mrs. Williams, wife of the pastor, organized the ladies of the church into a Woman's Missionary Society with 10 members. Mrs. Jesse Reynolds was elected president of the organization.

A Vacation Bible School was conducted in June 1968 with 38 enrolled.

In October 1968 the church was accepted into the Brunswick Baptist Association.

In January 1969 there were 29 members and 38 enrolled in Sunday School. A Constitution and By-Laws for the church were written and presented to the church in February 1969 by Pastor Tom Williams.

In February 1969, the church called Rev. Charles Glisson as half-time pastor. He began his ministry March 1, 1969.

The church building was completed and the first service was held May 11, 1969.



BOLIVIA BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1912

In the year 1912, there was only one church, a Methodist church, in the town of Bolivia, NC. A need for a Baptist church was seen, and as a result, a group of Christians and the Rev. J. O. Albright organized the Bolivia Baptist Church. Among this group of Christians were Mr. F. London Lewis, Mr. A. Gamalia Mintz, Mrs. Henrietta Mercer, Mrs. Margaret Edwards, Mrs. Doshier Mercer, and Miss Bessie Willetts.

A one-room school house was used for worship services while plans were drawn for constructing a church building. The community contributed most of the funds and the members performed the work. Mr. Alvin Mercer donated the land for the building. Mrs. Margaret Edwards and her son take her by horse and buggy to Town Creek. There she boarded a boat and went to Wilmington to ask for donations.

Along with contributions mostly from business establishments in Wilmington and from local people they were able to build a church building that year. Mr. London Lewis was in charge of construction and did most of the work. It has been mentioned that Rev. Paul Britt ceiled the inside of the church, and he also preached the first sermon in the new building in January of 1914. He was called later that year as pastor.

The first furniture for the building was purchased by Mrs. Margaret Edwards and consisted of three straight chairs and two oil lamps. The Ladies Aid purchased a pulpit at a cost of \$10 and a wood heater for \$6.

Later the Ladies Aid changed its name to the Woman's Missionary Society at the suggestion of Mrs. Mary Ward.

The building was a frame structure with a bell, plain-glass windows, and a seating capacity of 150. It was dedicated in 1912. The first pastor was the Rev. C. N. Phillips.

Some years prior to 1931, the church sponsored a branch Sunday School at Brunswick Station, a train station located up back of Town Creek and Winnabow. In May 1931 it was discontinued, leaving \$25.00 in the treasury. The church voted to apply this \$25.00 to a musical instrument.

In August of 1947, a building committee composed of Mr. S. H. Hilburn, Mr. L.L. Edwards, Mr. L. S. Holden, Mr. L. W. McKeithan, Mr. Robert C. Phelps, Mrs. Foster Mintz, and Mrs. J. D. Johnson headed the construction of the sanctuary now in use.

In 1953 we voted to call a pastor for full time service. Rev. J. Richard Duffie was called.

Due to the growth of the church and the increase in attendance, there was a need for more classrooms. The church purchased in 1956, as a new building, the two-story structure at the rear of the sanctuary. In 1969 this structure was torn down to be replaced with the present brick educational building.

A pastorium was built in 1958 on a site donated by Mr. Thurston Clemmons.

Bolivia Baptist Church has during the years ordained the Rev. G. Manley Hocutt and licensed to preach the Rev. L. W. McKeithan, the Rev. James K. Johnson, the Rev. James F. Jones and the Rev. Warren Bullard.

Church member was in 1913, 8; in 1923, 85; in 1950, 93; in 1960, 148; in 1970, 117; and in 1977, 114.

Bolivia Baptist Church has been a member of the Brunswick Baptist Association since 1913. Mr. A. Gamalia Mintz and Mr. F. London Lewis were the delegates present for the session.



BONAPARTE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1986

A letter dated April 26, 1985 from Rev. A. R. Waisner, Associational Missionary, announced that the newest mission in our county is well on its way to birth. By the middle of May the new mission pastor will be in the field and South Brunswick Mission will become a reality. Rev. Waisner made a request for financial assistance for the church, food for a pounding of the new mission pastor, men and boys to clean up the yard and women and girls to clean the inside of the home for the pastor.

In 1986 the church, now known as Bonaparte Baptist Church, was holding regular services in the Sunset Beach-Calabash area. The church is in a temporary location across from McLamb's Grocery.

Chartered in July, 1986 with 13 members on roll, the church had 18 members in November, 1986. Church activities included a Sunday School, worship services, prayer service and Bible study, W.M.U. and Acteens.

The historical report of 1988 told of progress made by the church. We repainted the church and landscaped the front yard. We're still meeting in a mobile home and praying for affordable land to build our church. Provided meals for 3 families, at different times, whose cooks were incapacitated for several weeks due to accidents and heart attack. We adopted a one parent family and provided food and clothing. Also the church gave money for the Feed the Hungry Program. We were co-winners of the Training Union attendance banner for 1987-1988.



A similar report in 1990 stated an addition of five members making total membership of 21. We participated in the Here's Hope simultaneous revival and had cottage prayer meetings the week before the revival. Our VBS was a success with 20 pupils and six workers. Took part in the Brunswick County Council on Aging program honoring senior citizens. Sponsored a birthday party at the Brunswick Nursing Home. Several members have adopted patients who have no one to visit or bring them things. Had a church wide party at Christmas and Valentines. We have had several outings for the youth of the church and community, added a 24x38 addition to the existing building, and held a deacon ordination service on September 16, 1990 followed by fellowship dinner and afternoon singing.

BOONES NECK BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1945

Boone's Neck Baptist Church was organized in June of 1945, with Rev. A. E. Fulmer as pastor. The church site was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Robinson. The 1946 Annual Session of the Brunswick Baptist Association accepted the church into its membership. Delegates present were Mr. A. L. Hewett, Mr. L. M. Robinson, and Mr. L. C. Robinson. Total church membership in 1945 as 14, with a Sunday School enrollment of 68.

The building was a one room auditorium, of wooden structure. Two deacons, Mr. A. L. Hewett and Mr. L. M. Robinson were ordained. Mrs. Evy Hewett was first church clerk, Mrs. Christine Bullock was treasurer and Mrs. Lillie Hewett was elected superintendent.

On August 1947 plans were made to add class rooms to the church. Also the church ordained Mr. F. P. Potter as deacon. Now the church has three deacons. Our first communion set was purchased this year. New members came into the church and the total membership has increased to 21.



June 1950, Rev. H. M. Baker came as pastor to Boones Neck. Brick donated by Mr. Bedford Ludlum was used in building the steps for the church. During August 1951, Mr. Ludlum was ordained as deacon, relieving the older deacons of some of the responsibilities.

On January 1953 remodeling the church got underway and pulpit furniture was purchased. Carpet was also purchased this year. April 1968, a new roof had to be added to the church. In 1969 the church borrowed money for bricking and paneling the church. At present time the work is complete and the indebtedness almost paid off. Total membership is 110.

In the early days of our Association, much emphasis was placed on prayer meetings. Note this report from the second session: Your committee holds that it is essential to the well being of church life to hold at least one prayer-meeting a week. We think it is one of the means by which great good may be accomplished in bringing brethren together. Respectfully submitted, H.S. Robeson

BRUNSWICK ISLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1992

In October 1989, 13 men and women met at the Brunswick Association Resource Center for the purpose of forming a new church (mission) in the Holden Beach area. Three meetings were held at the Resource Center. The Rev. James S. Hartman agreed to lead the group in starting Holden Beach Baptist Mission.

Sunday morning worship services and Tuesday night Bible study were held in the old Powell Funeral Home building in Shallotte during November and December. The Brunswickland Carpet building became available, so beginning January 9, 1990, the services were held there. This building very soon became too small so on March 30 the mission began meeting in a building on Highway 130, formally used as a clothing outlet. Rev. Doug Ponder, Rev. James A. Hartman and Rev. James Murphy shared the pulpit and Rev. James A. Hartman lead Bible study. There was enough room at this location to allow for the addition of several more Sunday School classes.

Antioch Baptist Church agreed to be our sponsoring church and on June 5, 1990, 37 names were turned over to Antioch church as members. On July 31, 1990, Rev. Jack D. Hancox, retired missionary, was called as interim pastor. Holden Beach Mission became Brunswick Islands Baptist Church in a Constitution Service on May 3, 1992.

With the help of volunteers from several states, a new home for Brunswick Islands Baptist Church was built. The eight acre tract of land located on Mt. Pisgah Road at the intersection of Highway 130 was purchased from Tracy and Dorothy Brown and Dean and Nancy Hewett. The first service was held on September 5, 1993. A dedication service was conducted on October 17, 1993, with over 300 in attendance.

Rev. Jack D. Hancox resigned as pastor to return to France on a six month mission tour. Rev. Larry A. Knowles was called as pastor in February, 1994. He served as pastor for a year. In September, 1995, Rev. David M. Stratton, was called as the new pastor. An early informal worship service was added in April, 1996. Membership has grown from the 37 on June 5, 1990 to 318.



Brunswickland Carpet Building, second site of church, Holden Beach, 1990.



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1961

In February of 1961 a group of 19 men and women met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Shimer Hewett to discuss the possibilities of a new church.

The first Sunday School class met on March 5th, 1961, in the American Legion Hut with Mr. Shimer Hewett as the first Sunday School Superintendent. Our first teachers were, Mrs. Cora Frink, Mrs. Lydia Hewett and Mrs. Clara Holden.

In June of 1961 Calvary began worshipping in a house owned by Mr. & Mrs. Starling Hewett. In October of 1961 we were taken into the watchcare of the Brunswick Baptist Association.

On June 21, 1961 with payment of \$800.00 being made in full, we secured a location for the church from Mr. J. B. Ward. Mr. Starling Hewett, Mr. W.D. Evans, and Mr. J.D. Lewis were appointed as our first trustees.

On October 11, 1961 the naming committee presented the name Calvary for our church.

On October 15, 1961, ground breaking ceremonies were held for our first church building and on October 31, 1961, the foundation was poured and work began, with future members doing most of the work on a volunteer basis. On April 15, 1962 the new Calvary Church building was dedicated.

Our first deacons were elected in December of 1961. They were Mr. Woodrow Russ, Mr. Shimer Hewett, and Mr. Wilbur Holden.

The Charter was granted in December of 1961 and the church doors were open for members. It was voted that the charter be left open until June 1961. By the closing date of the charter we had a membership of 35. Seven of the charter members are still living and active members of Calvary Church.

A big year for Calvary was 1962. We called our first pastor, Rev. Joseph Lassister on April 11. He was paid \$100.00 for that first summer. In 1962 the WMU was organized. Also the expansion of classroom facilities was done in 1962. Enrollment in Sunday School was 65.

In 1963 we added four classrooms, a kitchen, and a fellowship hall and the membership increased to 83. The Brotherhood was organized in this year.

In March 1964, Rev. Lassister tendered his resignation and Rev. G. Scott Turner came to pastor the church. Plans began in January of 1965 to build a pas-

sors home and in April of that year, Rev. Turner and his family moved into a new \$12,000 home.

In August of 1966, Rev. Turner retired, making the way for Rev. Mark Owens to fill the pulpit. He served as pastor until February of 1972. Rev. Jim Jones was called in June of 1972 and served until June, 1987. During this time many improvements were made.

In June of 1987 Rev. Doug Ponder became pastor and served until June 1990. Upon his resignation, Rev. John Landers was called in July of 1990 and he served until June 1993. During these three years the church building underwent major renovations.

In November 1993 Dr. James Potter came and served as interim and was soon asked to consider becoming our full time pastor. He agreed, and on February 20, 1994, Dr. Potter became full time. In April 1994 Dr. Potter underwent surgery with an extended hospital stay. During this time (May 1994 - August 1994) Rev. Mike Vipperman served as interim. Dr. Potter came back in September and served until July 1995.

In October 1995, we were once again blessed to find Rev. Thomas Nelson to fill our pulpit as interim until January of 1996.

Sunday, December 31, 1995, Dr. John M. Peverett preached his trial sermon to become our new pastor and was called with a 100% vote. His first Sunday as pastor was January 28, 1996. The church has experienced phenomenal growth with 99 new members as of Feb. 2, 1997. The church also invited Mrs. Sandy Duran to be full time Music Director as of Feb. 1, 1997.



COMMUNITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1966

On August 27, 1964 it was voted on in church conference to build a new and larger church building at a new location. Mr. Grant Lee and Mrs. Nolia Mintz Smith gave the present site of six acres one mile east of Bowden Memorial Church on the Malmo Loop Road. Additional land was given by the paper company. The membership was composed of members of the Bowden Memorial Church.

Members of the church and community started construction in 1964. The first service was held on Easter Sunday of 1965 even though the building was not completed. Rev. Elbert C. Rogers preached the word of God and all in attendance had feelings of pride and a great spiritual awareness of the blessings of God. With much hard work, labor and determination the building was dedicated on October 8, 1967 and as a memory to this event Homecoming is held each year on the second Sunday in October.

The community and membership grew over time and as a result so did the need for expanding the church building. In 1980 construction began on the new addition consisting of Sunday School classrooms, pastoral study, rest rooms and a fellowship hall.

To date the church continues to grow and is more than welcome to serve the community through faith, friendship, compassion and the love of God.



Churches and delegates at the first session, 1899

Beulah - J.J. Bennett and J.M. Long
 Jennies Branch - H.S. Robeson, E.W. Hewett, J.J. Ludlum
 Long Branch - J.A. Russ and Isaac Jenrette
 Mill Creek - G.T. Hickman and J.A. Willetts
 Mount Pisgah - J. Sellers, T.R. Hewett and J. Blanton
 Oak Grove - J.G. Hewett and H.H. Clemmons
 Prospect - Aysberry Simmons
 Poly Bridge - W. McKeithan, A.T. Ward and J.M. Reaves
 Shallotte - R.R. Milliken, Isaac Milliken, and G.M. Hewett
 Soldier Bay - V. Smith, J.P. Rhodes and C. Evans

The Moderator announced G.W. Sellers and Isaac Milliken as Reading Clerks, and J.A. Russ, V. Smith and C. Evans as Financial Committee.

Visiting brethren and corresponding messengers were D.K. Mints, from the Cedar Creek Association; G.W. Sellers, from the Cape Fear-Columbus Association; Joseph Bennett, from the Robeson Association, and G.C. Simmons, from the Bladen Association.

ELAH BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1882

On January 18th in the year 1882, the following item appeared in the Wilmington daily paper: The erection of a Baptist church at Myrtle Branch, Brunswick County, about six miles from Wilmington has been commenced, and a building committee consisting of Rev. J. G. Dukes, Mr. John Nelson and Mr. William Penny has been appointed to solicit subscriptions. In dimensions the church is to be 35 by 40 feet.

On February 4th, 1882, a Deed of Conveyance was drawn up by Mr. & Mrs. Mike W. Hilburn to the Myrtle Branch Baptist Church. The deed allowed that the property could be used for the establishment of a 'free school.' It has been ascertained that the Myrtle Branch Baptist Church was indeed used as a part time schoolhouse. The names of some of those who taught there were a Dr. Henry from Winnabow, Mrs. Arlene Simpson and Mr. Tom Vines. At present, there are only two oldsters in the community who attended this schoolhouse as children. The church building was used about two months out of the year as a schoolhouse and served a considerably large community area.



The Myrtle Branch Baptist Church served the community at large from this location from 1882 until the year 1902. In 1903 the church building was relocated about one mile west of its original location. This was done to have the church more centrally located. After relocating at the present site, the church also was renamed. It became known as Elah Baptist Church. The pastor who had been serving at the old location continued to serve the church in its new location. He was Rev. A. Judd Freeman. Also serving as pastors around this era (1905-1912) were Rev. Dobson and Rev. Paul T. Britt whose son, Rev. Norley Britt, served as a pastor of the church in later years. It is known

that Rev. Dempsey Hewett was Elah's pastor in the year 1913.

The land on which the church is now located was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mintz. The three church trustees named in this deed were Mr. M. P. White, Mr. James Ganey and Mr. Henry Mintz. In the deed it is stated, "that they shall erect a house of worship or any other improvement for the worship or advancement of the church members of the said Myrtle Branch Baptist Church or the Baptist church at large, to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein..."

A great step forward for the church was taken when at conference on August 20th, 1952, the church voted to cooperate with the Goshen Baptist Church so that a full time pastor could be placed on the field of both churches. The man called to fill this ministry was Rev. Joe C. Stanley. Under the leadership of Brother Stanley the church commenced to grow and to flourish, not only in numbers added to the rolls, but also in spiritual achievement. In June of 1953 the church started a building fund, and in the same year, 25 members pledged to their incomes.

Once again the church stepped out on faith and during a church conference held July 10th, 1957 we voted to call a full time pastor to a full time ministry. During the same year, a parcel of land was given by Mr. & Mrs. John C. Burgess on which the church was to build a parsonage. It was also during this year that the church called their first full time pastor, Rev. W. T. Lundy of Hartsville, S.C. Once again under the Lord's leadership the church began to prosper and grow.

On April 27th, 1958, the new building was dedicated. The day was marked by a wonderful spirit of worship and thanksgiving. Present with us to deliver the sermon of Dedication was Rev. E. C. Upchurch, Secretary of the Church Development Program of the N.C. State Baptist Convention.

In 1959 Rev. W. T. Lundy accepted a call to a new field with the Grant's Creek Baptist church in Maysville, NC. For several months Elah was without a pastor. Finally in 1960, Elah Baptist Church extended a call to a young minister from the Columbus Association who at the time was pastoring two churches. Rev. Bruce Lanier finally accepted the call to become the new pastor. It seemed that Rev. Bruce appealed to nearly everyone, not only those of the church membership, but also to those "without the church." As a result of his zeal in the Lord, once again the membership began to grow, and sharing in this growth were all the church departments and organizations. From a membership total of 170 in 1959-60, we have grown until our membership now registers 250 enrolled. Surely the Lord has blessed us and the more we yield our lives to His leadership, the more and greater are His blessings.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1978

In February, 1977, a small group of people (formerly members of Bolivia Baptist Church) met together in individual homes and prayed for God's guidance as to whether to join already established churches in Brunswick County or to form a new one.

Seeking God's will and, after much prayer, a new one was started. Then, a name for the church was prayed about and two different people were given the name, and since this is what we had stepped out on, this is what we became.

We continued to meet in individual homes until March, 1977, when the need was seen for a permanent location. On March 2, 1977, we had 36 in attendance for prayer meeting.

The old home place of Mr. Berkely B. Mercer on was finally rented. The partition between the living room and the dining area was removed to make a larger room for a sanctuary. The women helped paint the interior so that the first service could be held on March 6, 1977. So, with love, elbow grease and just plain hard work, they turned a small green home into what was to become Faith Baptist Church.

Town Creek Baptist Church gave us a large pulpit stand and nine pews. Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Johnson gave a refrigerator.

On March 6, 1977, the first official service of Faith Baptist Church with Rev. Samuel Smith leading us in both services. He brought messages from the heart and from the world of God. There were 43 in attendance.

The church library was also started with grateful thanks to Southport Baptist Church for their donations. Mrs. Margaret Clemmons was elected to be Media/Librarian and has remained in that position to date. A horseshoe pitching area and outside tables were set up for recreation. Volleyball, and baseball were started. Some happy times



were spent under the pines with good old Christian fellowship.

On April 3, 1977, Faith Baptist, with 42 present, had its Charter Sunday with Rev. Smith having the devotion, scripture and prayer. Mr. Floyd Wescott read the covenant and it was adopted by the church.

The WMU of Faith has been steadily working since we started the church in 1977 with four or five women in the beginning. These women of Faith took part in many mission projects from collecting 7,000 canceled stamps that, in turn, were sold so that seventy-three children in Bangladesh got a at least two hot meals a day for the period, to helping missionaries, to taking part in the prison ministry of Brunswick Baptist Association.

Mission Friends, G.A.'s, Acteens, and R.A.'s were started early in the ministry of Faith Church and continue to date. For example, G.A.'s started with one girl and by August 22, 1982 had 14 girls in attendance.

History is on an ongoing thing that never stops. Faith Baptist Church is continuing to grow and minister to various needs. The years 1995 through 1998 have been busy ones. In August 23, 1998 Faith Baptist church had a special ceremony commissioning Rev. Tom and Melissa Clemmons as our new International Missionaries. Tom grew up at Faith and we feel honored to send them out. During this time the tape ministry was started and is an excellent outreach venture. We praise God for all He has done for us and will do in the future.



Rev. Leo Cannon, Pastor

FARMER'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1908

About three and one half miles from the present site of Farmer's Chapel Baptist Church was located the first Baptist church to be established in the Maco (Farmer's Turnout) Community, Little Zoar. Organized ca. 1888 with Rev. Daniel P. Robbins as pastor, a portion of the membership left the church about 1907-08. Farmer's Chapel Baptist Church was constituted in 1908 by this group and was received into the Brunswick Baptist Association the same year. The church's delegates present at the session were Mr. B. Whit Cumby (Cumbee) and Rev. George T. Hickman, pastor.

The church building, a one-room frame structure, was constructed on land obtained from Hugh McRae, Sr. This site located on the east side of N.C. 87, a fourth of a mile from the old ACL railroad crossing at Maco, was used until 1930. The present building, just across the highway, is a frame, T-shaped structure with plain-glass windows, three Sunday School rooms, and a seating capacity on 225; dedicated in 1930, remodeled in 1930 and 1938. Prior to 1930, the building had been used as a schoolhouse.

In 1962, the educational building was added and shingles were placed on the outside of the church. Then, in 1968, heating/air conditioning was installed. The heirs of Dr. W.C. Mebane donated lots, adjoining the church property, which are used for the church cemetery. The property today totals one and a fourth acres.

Farmer's Chapel Baptist Church has reported a Sunday School since the year of constitution. Church membership in 1908, 16; 1938, 49; and in 1981, 51.

From 1912-25, the church was not a member of the Brunswick Baptist Association. At the 1926 Annual Session of the Association held at Lebanon Baptist Church, the church asked to be reinstated to membership in the Association. The

motion was granted to reinstate Farmer's Chapel Baptist Church and delegates were enrolled as follows: Mr. Martin B. Skipper, Mr. G. B. Skipper, Mr. Roman W. Potter, and Rev. Frank P. Potter, pastor.



Church Training

Church Training has come to us in its present form by way of the old B. Y. P. U. as it was called for many years. Then the organization was enlarged to include training for adults as well as young people and it became the Baptist Training Union. During these years its purpose was to train committed Christians in church membership. In the early days of the training work in the Association we once had a field worker who promoted this along with Sunday School work. It was interesting to note that for a number of years the statistical report on the training program (B. Y. P. U.) was given in the same table as that of the Woman's Missionary Union. No explanation was found for this. Later we had an officer elected by the Association known as the "Training Union Organizer." We now elect Associational Officers of Church Training and they promote the work in each age-level. The purpose is still the same even though the scope has been enlarged to include leader training for all areas of the life of the church and also the orientation of new church members.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1916

On August 2, 1916, Long Branch and Regan Baptist churches (both now extinct) agreed to unite together as soon as a church site near the center of the two churches could be obtained. Old records read - State of North Carolina, Brunswick County. To whom it may concern: This is to certify that we the undersigned Presbytery met at Old Long Branch Church on the seventh day of October A. D. 1916. Being called to meet with the members of Long Branch and Regan Baptist Churches for the purpose of constituting a regular Missionary Baptist Church. The Presbytery was: the Rev. J. A. Mintz, Chairman, Mr. Elias Jenrette, Mr. H. I. Bennett, and Mr. W. H. McKeithan, Secretary.

Friendship was selected as the name of the new church. All members of the old rolls were received. Mr. Elias Jenrette, Mr. Willie Ganus, Mr. J. M. Long, Mr. H. I. Bennett, and Mr. Isaac Jenrette were recognized as deacons from the two churches to form the deacon board of Friendship. The church covenant and rules of order were read and adopted by the church. Mr. W. H. McKeithan was elected as church clerk and the Rev. T. H. Patterson was called as pastor for the ensuing year. Thus, the beginning of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. The church asked to be admitted to the body of the Brunswick Baptist Association and was accepted. In June, 1917 a



building committee was formed. The present site was selected as the site for the church. Funds were raised and a building was erected. A wooden frame structure, with bell and steeple, the original structure with much remodeling and several additions, still stands. In 1970, plans were approved for a 40'x32' block building which is used as a fellowship and recreational building and Sunday School classrooms.

Through the years many souls have been saved, hearts revived, and lives dedicated to God at the altar of this church. Young people have gone out to become workers for God in other places. We are thankful for each one of the many God-called men who have served as pastors here. May God continue to bless as we seek to follow Him.

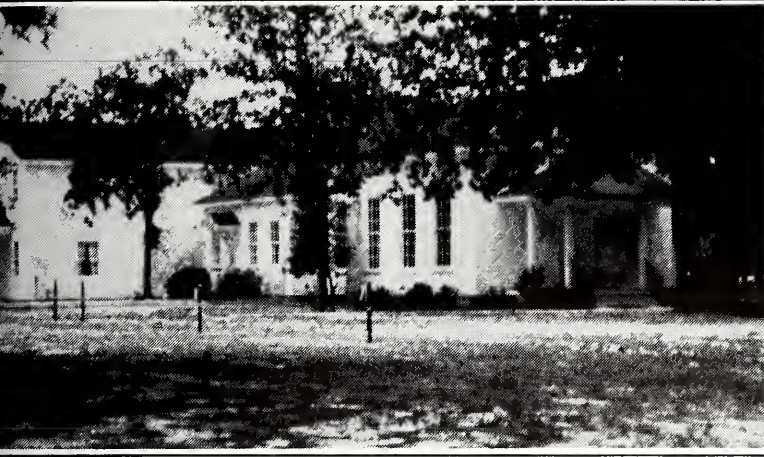


First building, 1917, picture painted by Alisa Long Duncan

GOSHEN BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1848

According to tradition, the Baptist of this neighborhood during the early 1800's held services in homes and later in a small school house. In 1852 Bryan's Chapel was constituted on land donated by Mr. Joseph Bryan. In 1858 the church joined the Cape Fear Association and listed a membership of 19. In 1867 there were 35 members and by 1871 Sunday School services were being held. The first actual church records still in existence began in 1880. In conference on February 1888, the name of the church was changed to Goshen Chapel Church, membership at that time was 44 female and 27 male. In 1899 Goshen



entered the newly-formed Cape Fear-Columbus Baptist Association, and it was not until 1932 that it joined the Brunswick Association. We have the distinction of having the oldest existing sanctuary in Brunswick County that has been in continuous use.

Two spacious Sunday School rooms were added in 1929 to help accommodate our growth. The arrival of electrical service in our area in 1947 brought numerous changes. Three more Sunday School rooms, bathrooms, and the replacement of gas overhead lamps with electric lights were a welcome addition.

In 1976 a two story Educational Building was finished, with quite a lot of hard work on the part of our carpenters and the men of the church. This provided much needed space with a large assembly, classrooms, kitchen, and additional bathrooms. In 1983 a complete reno-

vation of the original sanctuary was undertaken with the addition of new chandeliers, additional pews, baptistry, and an extension of the choir area to make more sanctuary room.

We proudly recognize two prominent Baptist ministers who grew up and were ordained in our church at an early age, Rev. Woodrow Robbins and Rev. Linwood Peterson.

A Donald R. Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1995. The fund is to be used to financially aid students for Christian service. Two scholars have already begun receiving scholarships.

God has blessed and continues to bless this community of believers (which now number 189) who have held fast to the Christian beliefs passed on by many generations.

GOSHEN CHURCH MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

Bryans Chapel (now Goshen) met in conference on Saturday before 3rd Lords Day in September 1881. Every conference included the statement, "the spiritual condition of the church was inquired into and reported fine." Members of the church brought to task a member who had backslidden. Immediately three men were appointed to meet with the backslidden member, report on same was made at next conference. At the end of one of the conferences, Church Clerk Seth Williams added "We were very strong but now we are weak-Lord revive us." At a conference in June 1884, it was noted the spiritual condition of the church was inquired into and found gloomy-there was a general confession made by all that was present.

Members who were accused of non-attendance, drinking, fighting, dancing, or other violations of church rules were called before the conference for an explanation of plea for forgiveness. In 1894 the legendary John C. Rowell was called before the conference of which his nephew Samuel James Rowell was clerk. The charge against the deacon was violation of church rules by communing with other denominations (taking communion at a Presbyterian church). When asked about his conduct, the elderly gentlemen stated that he was guilty as charged and was not ashamed of it, and what's more, under the same circumstances, he would probably do it again. The church ordered Mr. Rowell be expelled from membership; but, at the next conference the church reversed itself, noted that it had made a mistake, and asked him to return.

Around the turn of the century, each male member was assessed "dues" of .25 cents to ensure payment of the preacher. If the payment was not made, "disciplinary action" was taken to dismiss the person until dues were paid. Our Church Clerk, Mary Flynn, received a letter in 1990 from the granddaughter of such a member. She had remembered her grandfather always telling the story of being put out of the church because he owed .25 cents. She wanted to clear up any church records and pay the money he had stated he owed. After much searching through old records, a letter was sent to the granddaughter stating the old record books had been marked "paid in full."

GOSPEL CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1952

In 1941, a Baptist church in Altoona, Pennsylvania sent Miss Ethel Satterfield and Miss Virginia Pope out as missionaries. They settled in the Winnabow Community.

These missionaries came into this community and organized a Bible Club from which a Sunday School was organized. Meetings were held on the front porch of one of the residents. Before long the Sunday School was conducted in a

vacant dwelling house. The people began to see a need for a place to conduct religious meetings. Offerings and donations began to be made from far and near until enough funds were received to construct a wood building, consisting of a sanctuary and one class room.

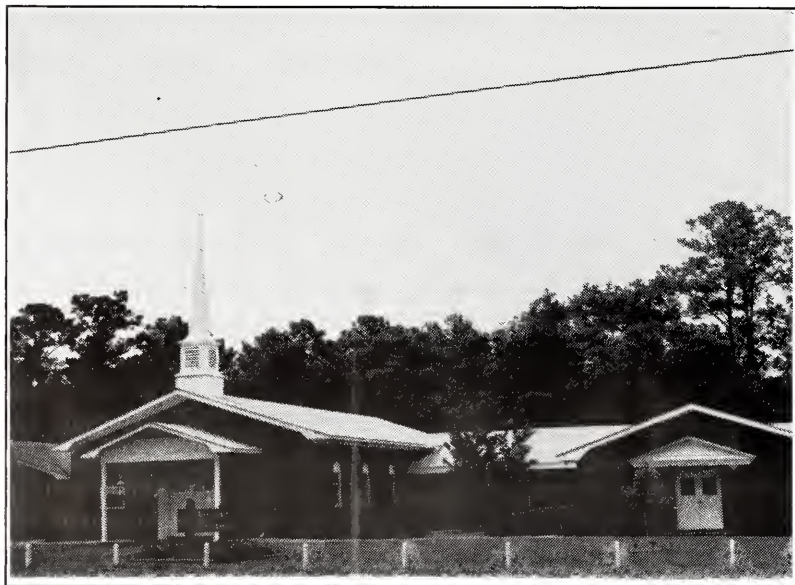
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Galloway donated a tract of land for the building. The land was deeded to the Trustees on January 4, 1945. With faith, work and giving, the building was ready for use. Sunday School and Bible Clubs were conducted.

Thomas N. Galloway was the first church treasurer. Helen Galloway was the first Sunday School secretary.

The first services were conducted on Easter Sunday, 1945, by Miss Satterfield and Miss Pope.

The year 1946, a name was needed for the church. Each who attended was asked to drop a suitable name in a box. The name chosen was Gospel Center.

The church was first organized as undenominational in December 1947 and in 1949,



Reverend Grover Vaughn was called as pastor.

Rev. James C. Spivey was called in 1950. While serving, the Rev. Spivey was ordained to the ministry.

Gospel Center Church was organized as a Baptist Church February 24, 1952. There were 14 charter members. In 1952 Rev. Weston Varnum was the first pastor called to Gospel Center Baptist Church. During Rev. Varnum's ministry, great revivals were experienced, one in which 21 souls were converted. The membership greatly increased, and classrooms were added to the church.

The old wooden church was sold in 1962 and replaced with a brick church, which is now the fellowship hall. The church was under construction 1962-1966.

The church called Rev. Dennis R. Hewett in February 1968. On May 4, 1968, under the direction of Mrs. Mildred Hewett, the Girls in Action and Sunbeams were organized. Boys and Girls in Action began in 1969. The WMU was organized January 2, 1970, including Baptist Women, Acteens, GA's, and Mission Friends.

Our first homecoming was September 7, 1969. Our special guest was one of the first women missionaries to help organize the church, Miss Ethel Satterfield.

In 1973, the congregation gave consent to go ahead with building plans. Plans for the new sanctuary were presented to the church for approval in 1975.

November 28, 1979, the congregation held the first service (prayer meeting) in the new sanctuary. The first full worship service was December 2, 1979.

In conference June 4, 1989, the building committee was given the permission to proceed with construction of the Educational Building. Construction began January 14, 1991.

Our first community fish fry fellowship was held the second Saturday in October 1994 as an outreach attempt. Annual fellowships have continued to the present.

Since the church began in 1952 it has grown to a membership of 149 as of September, 1998. In those years, we have lost 36 by death.

May we thank God for His many blessings upon us and endeavor to add to the efforts of those who have made this church possible. For the past, present, and future members may we rededicate our lives anew to God. We will glorify our Lord and Saviour as we embark upon the year 2000 trusting in the Almighty King.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1984

Records of the Brunswick Baptist Association indicate that Rev. Hartwell E. Condrey, Mission Chairman, met in the Fall of 1984 with the former members of Temple Baptist Church and assisted them in the formation of Grace Baptist Church. At the Annual Meeting on October 26, 1984 Tom Ballard, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, read the application for membership. The church was represented by the pastor, Rev. Howard Carrigan, Mrs. Lina G. Hawes, and Mrs. Irene Mason. The church was received under the watchcare for one full year.



Statistics showed 18 resident members, 26 enrolled in Sunday School and total receipts of \$7,219.

In 1985 the church was accepted as a member of the Association. Membership was still 18. Through the years church membership continued to increase. In 1990, 39 members were reported. Latest figures show 43 members.

Over the years 4 deaths have been recorded: Lina G. Hawes, 1987; Aaron Inman, 1989; Vidall Jacobs White and Horace Todd, 1996.

Vacation Bible Schools were held from 1991-94. Enrollment went from 17 the first year to 30 the last year.

In 1989 the fellowship building was completely furnished.

A recognition service honoring Rev. Dan E. Bennett, recent graduate with a masters of Ministry degree from the Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Florida, was held at the church on August 5, 1990. The Rev. Marvin Chapman, Director of Missions, spoke at the event.

Events of 1990 included a study course, 3 baptisms and the beginning of a visitation program.

During 1998 a new riding lawn mower was purchased, a storage shed for yard equipment was finished, Howard E. Stocks and Jeff Sibbett were ordained deacons and 2 were baptized during the spring revival.

Pastors are as follows: 1984-1985 Rev. Howard Carrigan; 1986-1988 Rev. Charles Smith; 1989-1991 Rev. Dan Bennett; 1992-1995 Rev. Douglas Fairfax; 1996- Rev. Charles Smith.

Ministerial Education

By the third session of the Association in 1901, there were 21 churches in the Association. There is an interesting report in those minutes on Ministerial Education: "After a short study on preaching, we think a sermon should be logically discussed, therefore we deem it necessary that the minister should be educated so as to have a command of the language sufficient to cover a large space with as few words as possible, making his sermon short and simple to the understanding of his hearers."

Ordained Ministers and their Post Offices, 1899

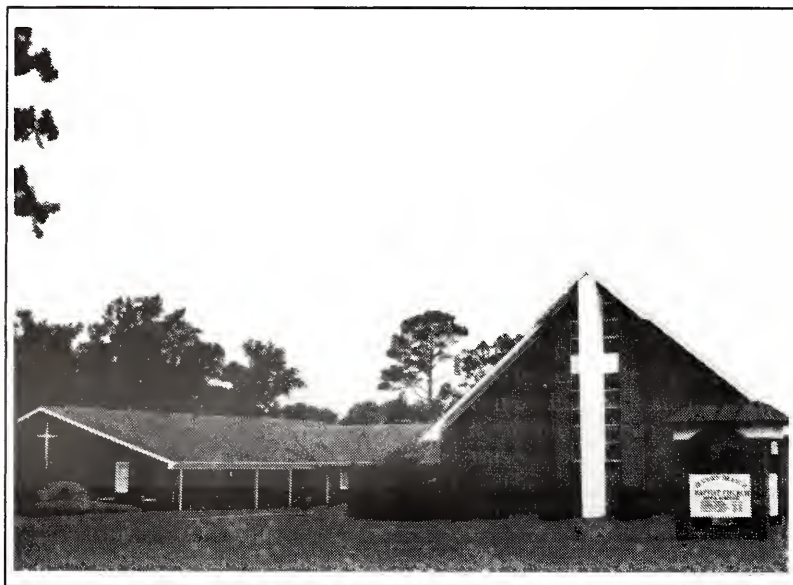
J.A. Mintz, Seaside, NC	E.L. Swain, Shallotte, NC	E. Milliken, Ash, NC
D.L. Hewett, Shallotte, NC	J. Sellers, Supply, NC	

JENNIES BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1895

Jennies Branch Baptist Church was organized in 1895. The first building had its beginning with 14 charter members among whom were: M. R. Hewett, Marshall Edwards, C.S. Hewett, John Edward Gore, George Gore, Willie Hewett, Mack Todd, Peter Todd, John O'Neil Gore, Pink Gore, Lewis Ludlum, Joe Stanley, Ben Hewett, and Mr. Jesse Edwards.

In 1933, the church decided to move the building to a more central location in the community. A plot of ground was given by Dr. and Mrs. M. H. Rourk and the church was moved to the present location the following year.



On February 9, 1946, the church voted in conference to build some additional classrooms. These were completed the next year and the Sunday School enrollment increased to 90. The church membership was approximately 70.

In 1949 the Woman's Missionary Society was formed with Mrs. Rosa Stanley as its president.

In 1955 the church accepted an adjoining plot of land for a cemetery. This was given by Mr. Warren W. Hewett.

In 1958 the first Training Union was organized. The first director was Mrs. Odessa Stanley.

In 1962 a plot of land was purchased from Mr. E. V. Gore, Jr., for the sum of \$500.00 for the construction of the new parsonage. The parsonage was completed

and occupied in the spring of 1963. Rev. Clarence J. Piercy and family were the first occupants.

In Oct. 8, 1967, a building committee was elected and in January of 1968, the church held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new facilities.

The present choir was organized in 1968. Present membership is 18. New robes were purchased in 1972.

The present church has 164 resident members, 22 non-resident member for a total of 186. The average attendance is 97 for the Sunday School and 38 for the Training Union. We have a VBS, WMU, Acteens, GA's, and Training Union.

The Brotherhood group recently initiated humanitarian projects to help neighboring churches in Brunswick County. The men assisted the membership of St. Marks Church, a predominantly African-American congregation, in renovating their building. Various people and businesses in the community have supported the project. The men's group has also been helping Bonaparte Church with structural repair and financial assistance.

Rev. Jesse Bentley retired in 1990 after serving as pastor for 25 years. This was his first and his only pastorate.

Rev. & Mrs. Walter S. Jones endowed a scholarship at the Divinity School at Campbell University. Rev. Jones is currently working with the Baptist State Convention's Stewardship Department. He served as pastor from 1996-1998.

Rev. Tom Leonard is the current pastor. In 1999 the church was recognized by the International Mission Board as a Global Priority Church.

LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1873

Records state that Lebanon Baptist Church was constituted in 1873. However, it is known that regular worship services were held early as 1869, in the Funston area of Brunswick County. This same group of individuals later founded Lebanon Church. Tradition says the church was formed as the result of disunity within the nearby churches.



Older church members have stated that the present building was in use at the time of the Charleston earthquake of 1886.

The present day structure, with the additions made in recent years, is believed to be the original church building. A WPA survey made in the 1940's states there was another church house prior to 1905. This is believed to be a reference to a mission that the church sponsored or helped at one time.

The date of the first service is unknown. For many years preaching services were held only one Sunday per month. Preaching Sundays varied with different ministers. Some of the early pastors also taught at the Dawes Creek Academy, a school located in the area of the church.

This WPA survey states: "Lebanon Baptist Church, 1873 - Winnabow, Brunswick County, Constituted 1873. A member of Cape Fear Association, 1883 - 98; of Cape Fear-Columbus Association, 1899; received into Brunswick Association, 1900. First building, 1873-1905, a one-room frame structure located 2 miles from present site. Present building, 1905 -- , a rectangular frame structure with bell, plain-glass windows, and seating capacity of 150; dedicated 1905, rebuilt 1935. First resident clergyman, the Rev. A.A. Edwards, 1873-79. The church has reported a Sunday School since 1884. Church membership in 1873, 11; in 1878, 41; in 1898, 104; in 1920, 130; and in 1938, 94." Membership was 129 in 1950, and 83 in 1984.

During 1978-79 the church was carpeted, the pews were upholstered, and vinyl siding was placed on the exterior.

The year 1983 was marked by the purchase of an acre of land to enlarge the cemetery. The insulating of the building ensures comfort to all who worship with us.

The church is active in the coed softball league, an outreach program for the youth. Many have been blessed and saved through this program.

A church Constitution and By-Laws were written and accepted on January 28, 1998.

Rev. Kevin Burnett was called as pastor on May 17, 1998. Church members is steadily increasing. In 1998-99 the church as done a lot of remodeling, inside and outside the church.

New pews, choir chairs, refinished pulpit and communion table arrived in May, 1999.

God has blessed and is still blessing our church.

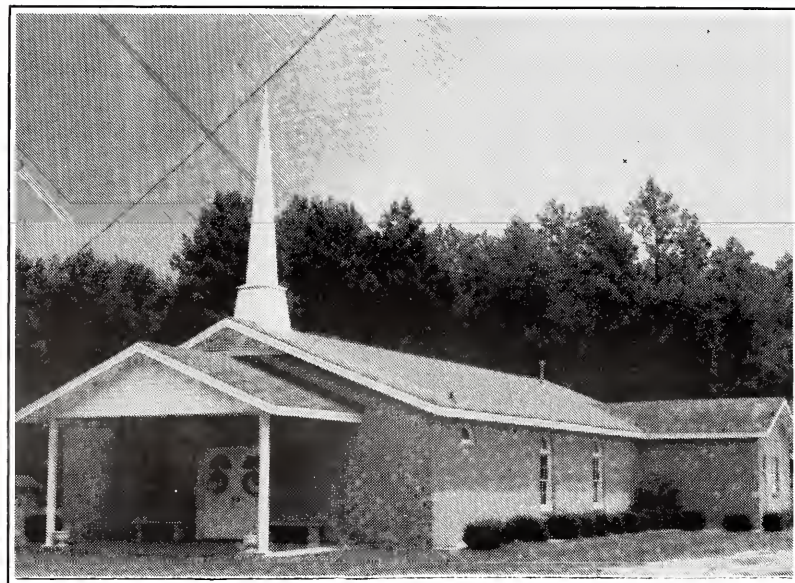
LONGWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1939

Longwood Baptist Church was organized June 15, 1939 and on November 8, 1939 called our first pastor, Rev. A. D. Harrelson. The first deacons were Bros. Jim Milliken, Don Harrelson, and Sam Joe Frink. We started out with 14 members. These were former members of Old Shallotte Church and one was from Friendship Church. Services were held in an old dwelling house until a church could be built. Bro. L. C. Brown donated land on which to build the new church, and in 1941 almost two years later the building was hulled in and we were able to move in. During the years God richly blessed our efforts and we grew in membership and the new church was completed and

officially dedicated to the Lord's service May 7, 1950. In July 1977 more land was donated by Mr. Worth Ward and Mr. George Williamson for a much needed new church.

On August 25, 1977 the foundation for the new building was poured and the new church was on its way. Through the efforts of members, friends, and bountiful blessings of God we were able to have our first worship service in the new church on April 1, 1979 and on May 6, 1979 the official dedication service was held. Rev. J. D. Hewett preached the Dedication sermon. A singing service was held in the afternoon. Rev. Garland Long held the first worship service in the new church. Homecoming services were held November 4, 1979 with Rev. Clarence Richardson as guest speaker. Dinner on the ground followed with singing in the afternoon.



The Lord has blessed us in so many ways and we grew so fast that on July 11, 1982 the motion was made to build a fellowship hall and in 1984 it was completed. The old one was turned into much needed classrooms.

In 1988 the church held prayer meetings in the home of the sick and elderly. This was truly a blessing for all of us.

Over the years God has blessed us in so many ways and our pastors have truly been God-called men. On July 2, 1994 God sent us our present pastor Rev. Jimmy Caines and on November 15, 1995 he became our first fulltime pastor. God has richly blessed our little flock with his coming.

As of 1997, we have 107 members and 3 deacons: Bros. Horace Smith, Chairman of Deacons; Bros. Leon Hewett and Bro. Leroy Benton. We are sponsoring David and Anita Finley as missionaries to Jamaica.

As the year ends it is with humble prayer we seek to move forward doing the Lord's work and praying earnestly that we will always be in His will.

Ministerial Examination

The first report of the Association recommending a minister for ordination was noted in the 1899 minutes.

To the Brunswick Association: Your board of examiners appointed to examine Bro. D. P. Robbins find him sound in the faith. We therefore recommend his ordination.

In 1907 the board examined Bro. G. T. Hickman as to his conversion and call to the ministry, find him sound in the faith and recommend him for ordination when he shall have entered the pastorate and his work demands such procedure.

MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1800

Mill Creek was constituted in 1800 by a part of the congregation of Lockwood's Folly Meeting House who withdrew for the purpose of establishing a new congregation. The church was a member of Cape Fear Association, 1836-88, 1895-98; a member of old Brunswick Association 1889-94; a member of Cape Fear - Columbus Association, 1899; and of Brunswick Association, 1899.

First building, 1800-1816, a log structure. Second building, 1816-30, a frame structure 20' x 30'. Third building, 1830-87, a frame structure. Fourth building, 1887-1910, a frame structure. Fifth building, 1910-52, a frame building with brick foundation, bell, plain glass windows, six Sunday School rooms and a seating capacity of 300; dedicated 1911, remodeled 1925. The rostrum was built in the shape of a half-moon. This building stood where the parsonage is now located.



The church was located in the wooded area between the present church and the Willetts Cemetery. The second church was located somewhat in the same area as the first church. Mr. Ben Mills, Mr. Billy Mills, Mr. Ben Willetts, and Mr. Monroe Hickman were some of the men who help build the second church. The church was built from cypress trees which were cut down in Mill Creek Swamp. The trees were cut into 24" blocks to build the church. The shingles which covered the church on all sides including the roof were hand drawn. Through the center of the church there was a row of posts on which were hung laden lamps. The floor of the church was elevated. There were three sections of seats and two aisles. The outside sections of seats would seat three or four people. In the front of the church in one corner was the Amen Corner. Mr. John H. Mills started the first Sunday School of the second church on the

church's front steps, the reason being there was no heat in the building. The third church was built in 1911 with Rev. Mizelle serving as pastor. It was located where our parsonage now stands. This church was also a regular framed house, weather boarded with lumber. On Sunday, March 2, 1950 plans for a fourth and present church building was presented to the members of Mill Creek. On June 11, 1950 it was voted by the members that the new church be built where the old church once stood. In 1952 the new church was completed. On May 13, 1956 the church voted to buy furniture to complete the auditorium of the new church. Choir seats, pews, and pulpit furniture were purchased for the church and the floors were sanded and finished. In late 1969 the church was presented with plans to build a 30 by 60 extension on to the left wing of the church. It would consist of 9 classrooms on the 2nd floor with a pastor's study, kitchen, and a fellowship hall. Also, the church was air-conditioned. In Fall 1970 the church voted to proceed with the building plans. In March 1971 work was begun on the new part. On July 4th, 1971 the extension to our building was near completion and was dedicated to our Lord. The Rev. James K. Johnson preached the dedication sermon.

Mill Creek Church has reported a Sunday School since 1895. Church membership in 1836, 42; in 1858, 54; in 1878, 43; in 1895, 89; in 1926, 157; in 1946, 301; in 1966, 312; and in 1975, 285. The church went to a full time ministry in 1947. The pastors salary has ranged from \$20.00 in 1894, \$250.00 in 1918, \$300.00 in 1926, \$684.00 in 1943, \$1,520.00 in 1953, \$3,900 in 1962, \$5,200.00 in 1970, to \$6,900 per year in 1974.

Today, Mill Creek Baptist Church is fulfilling its rightful place in the Mill Creek community with a church program of Sunday School, Church Training, Woman's Missionary Union, Music Ministry, and Vacation Bible School and to the world through its contributions to the Association and the Cooperative Program.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1915

Prior to the time that Mr. Olive Baptist Church came into existence the people, who later became a part of Mt. Olive Church, worshiped in a small building, known as Shiloh, located near the residence of Adolphus Coleman. This church was disbanded in 1903. In the year 1905 worship was again started in a one-room church, known as Shiloh, located on the land of Mr. Andrew Edwards. This building is still standing today.

When worship was resumed in 1905 at Shiloh the first Sunday School Superintendent was A.G. Mintz followed by B.B. Atkinson and the Secretary was Bessie Clemmons who later became Mrs. Peyton McKeithan. The Pastors were: Rev. Alfred W. Clemmons, Rev. Charlie Philips, Rev. Dempsey L. Hewett and Rev. Hartford Robinson.



In 1912 the center of worship was moved to what was known as The Galloway Schoolhouse located on the opposite side of U.S. Highway 17 from the Old Mt. Olive Church. This land was owned by Richmond Galloway, Sr. and wife Lillian Galloway. The first Sunday School Superintendent was B. B. Atkinson and the first pastor was Rev. Chester Wescott; followed by Rev. Mell Wescott. One of the public school teachers, Rev. J. C. Mizzelle, who was also a minister, preached occasionally along with Rev. Isaac Harrelson, a visiting minister.

They also had organized auxiliaries known as RA's GA's and W.M.U. The Secretary and Treasurer of The Woman's Missionary Union was Miss Pearl Atkinson.

In 1914 construction was begun by Rev. J. I. Stone on a new church building on the opposite side of U.S. 17 Highway on land owned by Mr. Henry Galloway and

wife Hattie Galloway. One year later the building was finished and ready for worship services.

In 1915 this church was organized and became known as Mt. Olive Baptist Church (originally known as Shiloh). This church, was unique, due to the fact that it had been built on land it did not own! However, Mr. Henry Galloway had promised the members that if they built the church he would give the land. On December 17, 1917 Mr. Galloway presented to Mt. Olive Baptist church the deed for the property!

The first deacons were: B. B. Atkinson, Alfred W. Clemmons and Matthew Long. The first pastor was Rev. J. I. Stone, 1915-1925.

This building was used as the house of worship for 65 years, we pray it has been a beacon by the side of the road of life.

From this church two men have been licensed and ordained to preach the Gospel, Rev. Stove Stout, and Rev. L. M. Clemmons. The late James Cecil Sellers was licensed but never ordained.

The members of Mt. Olive Baptist Church recognized the need for a new building in which to worship. A committee was appointed to locate a site. Mr. E. C. Wall, Jr., President of Canal Industries, was contacted concerning a tract of land across from the former location. On August 18, 1978, a deed was written by Canal Industries to Mt. Olive Baptist Church securing the land for the new church site.

Prayer meeting was the first service held in our new church on Wednesday night May 7, 1980 and the first song sung was "At The Cross." On Sunday, May 11, 1980 the first sermon was preached in our new church by a former pastor Rev. Elbert C. Rogers. On Sunday night June 1, 1980 our first candidate, was baptized in the new baptistry. That same Sunday morning we had the first profession of faith in our new church as Henni Mitchell. accepted Christ and offered herself as a candidate for baptism. The building was dedicated on June 15, 1980.

MOUNT PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1762

In 1762, Ezekiel Hunter, who was pastor of the Baptist church at New River in Onslow County, baptized a few members and organized a church at Lockwood's Folly. They built a log house on the bank of Lockwood's Folly River and called it "Lockwood's Folly Meeting House." Apparently this house was used until about 1800. Just after the organization of the church, Rev. James Turner settled among them and preached with zeal and success. Thus the church stood until the death of Elder Hunter in 1772 and of Rev. Mr. Turner left soon afterwards. The church was visited frequently by Robert Nixon and Samuel Newton.

The Lockwood's Folly Church grew. In March 1800, it divided and a new church was founded on the west

side of the Waccamaw River, which is now known as Seven Creeks. Mill Creek, is a branch of the old Lockwood's Folly Church. Cedar Grove (colored) is another branch which was organized in 1872.

All records are not available, but apparently at this time another building was erected not far from the first house by the river. On April 25, 1818, according to the minutes, they held a two-day meeting in a frame building about two miles south of Supply, on the "old Stone Chimney Road." This meeting was a quarterly meeting and there is record of another like it on April 22-23, 1820. Conferences were held at both meetings and the doors of the church were opened to receive candidates for baptism.

Records covering the period from 1820 to November 1888, were destroyed by fire. On Saturday before the 4th Sunday in November 1888, we find that the members worshipped in a larger frame

building which was located approximately two miles west of the old site and was built about the year 1876. The church was named Mount Pisgah. Rev. J. P. Lennon, who was pastor, remained with them until 1880.

From November 1904 until September 1905, Rev. E. L. Swain was pastor. He was one of the seven preachers ordained from this church. In October 1906, Rev. D. L. Hewett became pastor for the third time and served the church until 1910. Under his leadership plans for a new building were begun and a building committee appointed, but it was discharged in May, 1909.

In May 1910, Rev. P. T. Britt was called as pastor. Another building committee was appointed in February to plan the construction of a new building. The minutes show that the pastor's salary had doubled since 1910, and offerings for missions had more than doubled. During the construction of the new building in 1912 offerings for missions doubled again. Lamps and an organ were bought for the church which was completed and dedicated in 1913.

In October 1923, Rev. J. I. Stone was called as pastor again and served until October 1924. During this time the Sunday School Convention was organized in the Association and the Sunday Schools began to take on new life.

In 1925 Miss Lillian Mabry came from the State Mission Board to work with the Sunday schools and B. Y. P. U.'s in the Brunswick Association. At Mount Pisgah she organized a Junior and Senior B. Y. P. U. and conducted Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. study courses. Also, she assisted in grading the Sunday School. Mount Pisgah has had a Standard Sunday School most of the time since then.

Since 1888 when the complete record starts, Mount Pisgah has had 23 pastor and eight clerks. These clerks who have worked faithfully without remuneration.

All the records that can be found indicate that Mount Pisgah is the oldest active church in Brunswick County. Mount Pisgah Church has had a great part in the organization of several other Baptist churches in Brunswick County.



NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1992

New Ebenezer Baptist Church was established on April 19, 1992. Pastor Ronnie McCray, Jr. and a small group of born again believers met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Goodman. Pastor McCray shared the vision that God had given him to start his own church. On that very night, the vision became a reality. Along with the vision that God gave him, he also gave him the name Ebenezer, meaning the Lord helped us.



Our Bible studies rotated from house to house on Friday nights. God also blessed us with another building for our Bible studies and intercessory prayer. Our Sunday worship services began in the homes until God blessed us with another place to worship at Bolivia Elementary School.

In October of 1992, we purchased five acres of land on Highway 211 for our church site. We had our first service at our new church on Sunday, May 3, 1998.

Beach Road Baptist Church voted in conference on Sunday, October 19, 1997 to accept the New Ebenezer Baptist Church under watchcare for a period of one year. They donated finances and hours of labor. We thank God for them. New Ebenezer requested membership in the Brunswick Baptist Association. During the one-year watchcare, Beach Road Baptist Church offered moral support, guidance, teaching & organization

support as well as taking special offerings to help with construction. At the present time, New Ebenezer church has 35 members meeting for worship. The Brotherhood of Beach Road helped with construction of the new facility on Highway 211. During the one-year period, the membership of New Ebenezer church joined Beach Road church for special services. New Ebenezer church holds to the Doctrines of Southern Baptists and wants to support Southern Baptists on the County, State, and National levels.

On April 12, 1999 the Executive Committee voted to accept New Ebenezer Church as a member church of the Association. Dedication services were held on Sunday 20, 1999 at 4:00 p.m. with Rev. Ray Webb, pastor of Beach Road Baptist Church, as guest speaker.

Activities of the first year include organizing outreach ministries for the women and children, jail ministry at Bolivia County Complex and Wilmington Correctional Center, a revival and 4 persons being baptized. A successful Vacation Bible School was held with 35 in attendance and one profession of faith. The church ordained the Rev. Richard Tuggle as a minister and Mr. Howard Robinson as a deacon.

Psalm 127:1 states, "Except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain." We give God all the honor and the glory for being in charge of the building of our church.



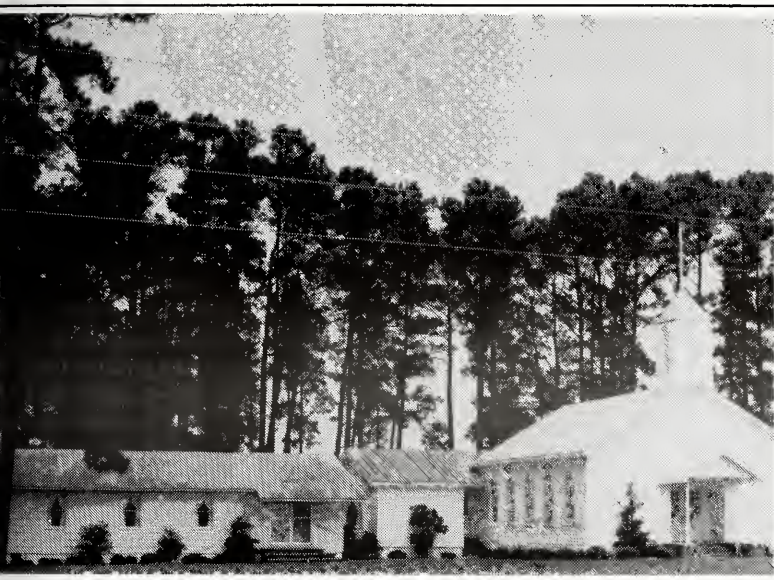
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1888

Early church services in the Exum community of Brunswick County were held at the Cannon house, located near the residence of Barney R. Bennett.

On October 28, 1888, Reverends R. J. Long and Nathan Milliken with Deacons H.S.. Bennett, Samuel Evans, and Nathaniel Little, members of the New Britton Baptist Church met with the group in the Exum community. After adopting the Articles of Faith taken from Hiscox's Directory of Baptist Churches, New Life Baptist Church was constituted. At this meeting, the church ordained Deacons, N. B. Bennett and B. B. Bennett.

The original church building was constructed across from the present site of the old cemetery.



In a March, 1908 business meeting, the motion was made and passed to offer for sale the old church building on May 9, 1908. N. B. Bennett, R. M. Edwards and J. L. Bennett were appointed to draw up plan for the new sanctuary that would replace the building being sold.

After the church was torn down, services were held in the "Old Schoolhouse" building that was located beside the present church structure.

In 1912, the new church was hulled in and services were conducted there; even though it would be some time before construction would be completed.

On December 11, 1937, J. M. Bennett, H. G. Brady, and D. B. Edwards were selected by the church to devise plans to remodel the present church building. The sanctuary was ceiled and Sunday School rooms were added.

Later, during the pastorate of Rev. Fred Elwood Gore, the three deacons and pastor were named to examine the present building and make recommendations as to the feasibility of saving same. The membership decided to remove a portion and completely rebuild the remaining structure.

In 1962, the old Sunday School classrooms were removed from the present sanctuary and the educational section, consisting of four classrooms, an assembly room, two rest rooms and hallway was added.

During 1970-71, under the leadership of Pastor J. D. Hewett and Deacon E. L. Vereen, new pulpit furniture, pews, and a heating-air conditioning system were added. In addition, the sanctuary was carpeted and the entire structure was painted.

In 1974, Pearly and Christine L. Vereen donated land for additional cemetery use.

In 1977, the adjacent fellowship hall was constructed.

Betty B. Warren, Brenda O. McKeithan and Diane G. Little volunteered to serve on the Church Improvement Committee. All church members were asked to offer suggestions for needed improvements.

Among the many improvements made during the 1980's were: carpeting the Education Building, replacing sanctuary windows, replacing roof, and adding a passageway to the Fellowship Hall from the church. Also, a new piano was given in memory of James R. Bennett, by his family.

On August 8, 1988, the church membership voted to cover the exterior of the church building with vinyl siding. It was later decided that German siding would best maintain the original look of the church.

In October, 1988, the church celebrated its Centennial Observance using the theme, "One Hundred Years of Service to God." Recognition of the outstanding events and happenings of the past 100 years was incorporated in the Homecoming Services on October 30, 1988.

During the late 80's and early 90's the church struggled to find a pastor to serve after the 13 year pastorate of Rev. Anson Smith. The members continued to work together and prayed for God's leadership in seeking a pastor for the church. Several pastors served during this period. After more than a year without a pastor, on May 24, 1998, Rev. Clayton Rivenbark accepted the call as pastor. On December 12, 1998, the church voted to call him Rev. Clayton Rivenbark for a year.

Looking back into history, the present-day membership can readily see and understand how faithful in the services of the church were God's people of yesteryear. As the church grew materially and spiritually, great care was taken to maintain church discipline. Often committees were appointed to the task of reconciliation to those who had departed the faith.

Looking forward into the future, may we faithfully share God's blessings, so abundantly poured out upon us as Christians, as well as the lost of this sinful world. May God bless us both spiritually and materially as we endeavor to do His will. We pray for God's guidance as we face the challenges of the next century.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1891

Oak Grove Baptist Church was constituted in April, 1891 as Caison's Chapel, the name it went by until 1895. The congregation now meets in the church's third building. A centennial celebration was held on April 14, 1991. All five of its former pastors, who are still living, were present and spoke at the event.

The first building was destroyed by fire in 1910. The second building was erected in 1912, a one-room, 24 feet by 38 feet frame structure with bay window, bell and belfry. This building was located in front of the Oak Grove Cemetery and faced the intersection of Empire Road and Highway 130. In 1950 the church was remodeled and four classrooms were added. During 1969-1971 three more classrooms and two bathrooms were constructed.

The church broke ground January 7, 1973 for the building which it has occupied since March 5, 1978. The church is located about one-half mile from the original site on land donated by Olen and Martha Clemmons, with



additional acreage given later by Dayton and Lou Ellen Rhodes. Work on the fellowship hall began in 1982 and was completed in 1985, with porch and breezeway added. Since then stained glass windows and a fiberglass steeple have been installed. Groundbreaking was held for a new parsonage in September, 1998.

Revivals were held in the spring and fall of 1998. There were 19 new members added, of these 10 were by baptism.

From its start with 27 members, Oak Grove has continued to grow in membership each year. The church has reported a Sunday School since its beginning.

Starting with Rev. E. L. Swain, during its 108 years the church has called at least 21 pastors. Rev. Albert Young has served the church since 1997.

Oak Grove has licensed three ministers - Rev. John Hewett, Rev. Emery Hewett and Rev. Laury Evans, and ordained Rev. Emery Hewett and Rev. Laury Evans. Music has always played an important role in Oak Grove's ministry. At the Centennial Celebration on April 14, 1991 special singing in the afternoon followed a covered dish lunch. The church, on a regular basis, invites singing groups to perform at the church. The people of the congregation also present dramas at Easter and Christmas.

Oak Grove has been a member of the Cape Fear Association, 1891-1898; of Cape Fear-Columbus Association, 1899 and the Brunswick Association since 1899.

The church hosted the Associational Meeting in 1916. That year the copy of the proceedings of the meeting was lost after reaching the office of the High Point Enterprise. Again in 1998 the church hosted the associational meeting.

In 1908, at the Annual Session, the Sunday School Committee made the following report: "We, the committee, after considering the matter carefully, recommend that the Sabbath School Superintendents, together with the pastors of the churches, meet with the next session of the Brunswick Union on Friday before the Union at ten o'clock to organize a Sunday School Convention in the Brunswick Association."

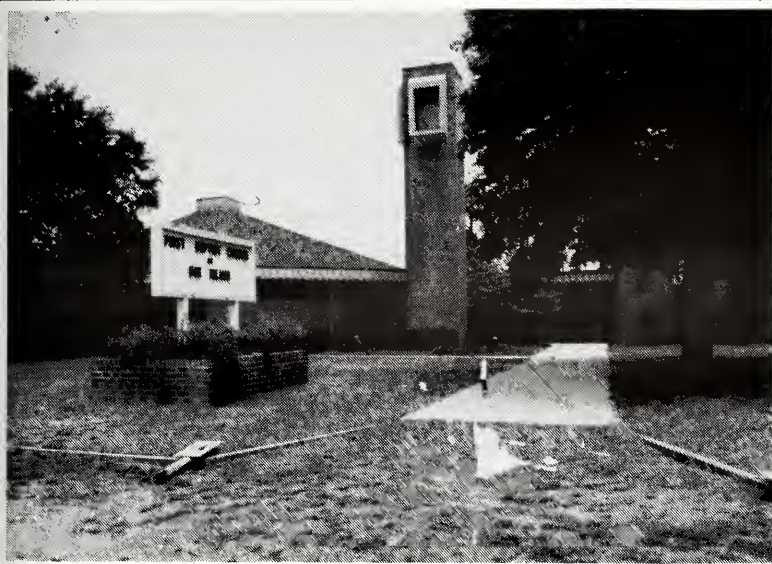
Respectfully submitted, Issac Milliken, Washington Sellers, D. I. Watson

OAK ISLAND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1967

The gift of two lots on Oak Island Drive by Mr. E. F. Middleton to Southport Baptist Church in 1959 gave birth of a dream of a Baptist church on Oak Island. With the help of the Missions Division of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, two additional lots were secured. The first service of the mission church sponsored by the Southport Church was held on Sunday morning, June 1, 1960, with Southport pastor Rev. Mark Owens preaching.

Construction of the first building unit began in October of 1960, and the first service in the new four room building was held on January 1, 1961 under the leadership of Rev. Scott G. Turner, pastor. With 47 persons attending this first service. Following the resignation of Rev. Turner in December of 1961, the church called Rev. Horace Hawes as pastor in February of 1962. Rev. Hawes resigned and the ministry of Rev. Jackie Cooper began in 1964.



The mission was duly constituted as Oak Island Baptist Church on April 9, 1967 with 43 charter members. After the resignation of Rev. Cooper and the interim work of Rev. Lee Pridgen, the church called Rev. Ralph Gregg who served for two years. Rev. Ernest Poston began serving as pastor in August of 1972, until his retirement in June of 1988. During these years the area experienced steady growth in population which continually challenged the resources and faith of the young church. A Learning/Activities Building was added in 1972. In 1979, the name of the church was changed to First Baptist Church of Oak Island.

In the late 1970's, the church began to plan for enlarged facilities to provide for the growing needs of the congregation. Plans for a new sanctuary were developed

and construction began in September of 1981. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on March 24, 1985. The new facility also included an administrative wing. The new facility is one of the most beautiful houses of worship in this area of the state.

Following the Rev. Poston, the church was led by two interim ministers, Rev. James B. McQuere and Rev. Jack Hancox. On May 20, 1990, Rev. Douglas G. Huff was installed as pastor. On August 1, 1996, Rev. Douglas Huff resigned from the church to become chaplain at New Hanover Hospital. During the Rev. Huff's ministry at the church, renovations turned the old chapel into five new Sunday School rooms.

On October 1, 1996, Rev. Ross Moyer became our interim pastor and served until September, 1997. Dr. William B. Hutchinson, Sr. was installed as pastor on September 7, 1997. It is our prayer that we may be a "light-house" to bring many persons safely to the shores of eternal life.

Executive Committee and their Post Offices, 1899

Isaac Milliken, Seaside, NC
J.A. Willetts, Bolivia, NC'

C. Evans, Regan, NC
W. Sellers, Supply, NC
D.A. Russ, Ash, NC

J.M. Long, Seaside, NC
A.T. Ward, Coleman, NC

OLD SHALLOTTE BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1837

From the old records of the minutes of the church, the church had fallen to a state of decay and on February 4 and 5, 1837, it was reconstituted. It was known as the Basford Meeting House of Shallotte. On October 26, 1847, William Basford deeded two acres of land to Shallotte Baptist Church. Further records show that on July 23, 1873, Elias Hewett deeded one acre of land to Shallotte Baptist Church trustees: Samuel Frink, Samuel G. Stanley, and Robert R. Milliker.

In March and April, 1905 there were discussions and motions to move the church to the new Starboard School House (Cool Run). The church became divided and a new church was established within the next two months. The remaining members, 23 male and 48 female, continued under the name of Shallotte Baptist Church as mentioned in the minutes of September 16, 1905. In December 1905, a motion was made to move the church to the Seaside and Starboard Road (present location). The vote was 12 for and 3 against. The land was donated by J. H. Fletcher Frink and the members

came together and built a one room building of heart lumber. In 1925, the members came together again and built a larger one-room building beside the old one. The old building was purchased by William Sommersett and moved from the site in 1926.

The church remained in this location and grew in membership. Wings were added in 1941 to make additional class room space. A steeple was constructed in 1943 and a bell installed therein. A building fund was started in later years and in the Fall of 1959 with Rev. W. Amis Daniel as pastor, a building committee was appointed. In 1961, with Rev. A. Judson Rotan as pastor, the church voted to borrow \$10,000 to finish construction except for the steeple and purchase new church furniture. Various members, families, and others interested in the church had contributed timber, time, electrical wiring, and memorial windows. No solicitation



of funds was made in any way except through the annual Harvest-Homecoming Day offering of the membership.

The first service was held on Harvest Day, October 28, 1962 with Rev. A. Judson Rotan and Rev. W. Amis Daniel in charge of the services. The Campbell College Choir from Buies Creek, NC rendered an especially inspiring concert in the afternoon.

Work began on the grounds: cement walks were poured, the grass was planted and sown, marl was hauled in the driveways, and shrubbery planted.

In 1966, the church borrowed an additional \$2,500 and erected a steeple on the sanctuary. In November 1967, the final payment of the money borrowed was paid in full. The church building is now valued at \$75,000.

In December 1967, the church voted to borrow the money and purchase the brick-veneer home of Mr. and Mrs. John David Frink (across the road from the church) for a parsonage. In the same conference, the church also voted to seek the services of a pastor on a fulltime basis.

Rev. Raymond Whitfield was called on February 21, 1968 as the church's first fulltime pastor. His family was the first to occupy the parsonage.

The 1873 Cape Fear Association minutes states under the report on the state of religion among the churches, "We are at peace, have the service of Elder D. K. Bennett for the past year, and have engaged Elder D. J. Ray for the ensuing year (1874)." Membership was: Males 45, females 93. Giving was: Association \$15.19; State \$2.02; Foreign \$2.02; and Ministers Education \$1.02. Old Shallotte Baptist Church has reported a Sunday School since 1896. Church membership in 1974 was 150, 123 resident; total receipts were \$27,331. The Sunday School, WMU, and Brotherhood are active.

A member of Cape Fear Association 1837-75; 1895-98; Waccamaw Association 1875-86; old Brunswick Association 1886-94; Cape Fear -Columbus Association 1899; present day Brunswick Association 1899-1922; Dock Association 1922-38; and again Brunswick Association 1938.

PEACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1961

On September 6, 1961, 19 people met under the direction of Rev. J. Earl Lanier in a worship service followed by a meeting to organize a Baptist church. The meeting was held in a farmhouse at 900 Cherrytree Road, Winnabow, NC. Renovations made the house suitable for worship.

Rev. Lanier was invited to moderate a business session held September 13, 1961. The church was organized and the Church and Sunday School officers were elected at this meeting. The first Sunday School was held the following Sunday, September 17, 1961, with 39 persons enrolled. The same day a Training Union, Woman's Missionary Society, Brotherhood, G.A.s and R.A.s were organized. Mr. J. B. Potter was elected as the first deacon.

Charter members were 14 men, 19 women and 11 children. On October 1, 1961 the church was named Peace Memorial Baptist Church, the Constitution was adopted and Rev. J. Earl Lanier was called as the first pastor. A recognition service was held on October 15th. Mrs. Margaret McRacken, associational missionary, was present along with five ministers.

At the 1961 annual Brunswick Baptist Association session, we came under the watchcare of the association and were admitted into the Brunswick Baptist Association the next year (1962).

Land was purchased and the church was built at 5811 Ocean Highway East, Winnabow, NC with the dedication being held November 18, 1962. The debt was retired in 1977. A gift of an additional one acre was to be the church cemetery.

Plans were drawn and construction began on the church building early in 1962. Worship was held in the new church building in October, 1962. The dedication ceremony was held November 18, 1962, with Rev. Mark Owens, Associational Moderator, the speaker. Rev. Owens, pastor of Southport Baptist Church, gave us spiritual help and made it possible to get the church started, as a Baptist church should be. Mr. E.J. Prevatte donated all his time doing the legal work to help the church get started.

Our first pastor, Rev. J. Earl Lanier, resigned in July 1962. From August 1, 1962-1965. Rev. Richard B. Williams ably served as pastor. The next two years saw Rev. Tom H. Williams leading the church. Beginning in 1967 Rev. Sidney D. Britt, continued in a half time ministry.

Faithful deacon, Mr. Edmond Simmons was the first of our membership to be called home from our midst, by God.

With God's blessing we have ordained and sent out five members to work in His kingdom. On June 9, 1963, at the request of the Calabash Baptist Mission, we ordained Rev. Hilton Willetts into the ministry and sent him forth with our prayers. Others ordained are Rev. Jimmy Flowers, Rev. Doug Fairfax, Rev. Danny Fairfax and Rev. Keven Barnette.

Our bus ministry makes it possible to have a large group of young people coming to join our youth program. Many special needs, both physical and spiritual, are met through our Food Pantry Ministry. The church building has been enlarged to meet the growth. The auditorium has been completely remodeled.

We have worship services on Sunday morning and nights along with Sunday School. Choir practice and visitation on Tuesday night. Wednesday is Bible study and pray night under the direction of Pastor David Woodley. We praise and thank God for all His blessings during our 38 years.



PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1891

On the first Lord's Day in March, 1891 a group of 13 males and 13 females, who had brought letters of transfer from other churches, met for the purpose of organizing Prospect Baptist Church. Rev. A.A. Edwards was called as first pastor and served for two years. Asbury Simmons and B.L. Holden were received as the first deacons. The first church clerk was O. T. Simmons, the first treasurer was R. B. Clemmons and the first Sunday School Superintendent was Jefferson Sellers.

Badger Clemmons gave a plot of land for the church and the deed was recorded in 1901. Song books were donated by A. B. Clemmons in 1893, a lamp for the first church was brought in 1895, a ceiling was installed in 1899, in 1900 Sister SB. V. Holden and Ella Simmons donated money to buy a Bible for the church, in 1914 the church was refloored, an extension was built on the church in 1918 and a bell was purchased in 1922.



In December, 1935, a building committee was appointed to make plans for a new church. This building was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1938. O. T. Simmons was appointed to dispose of the original church building. In 1953, plans were made to add Sunday School rooms. This building burned on December 21, 1962 due to the furnace malfunctioning. The church met the following night to make plans for the future.

The rebuilding process began in 1963 with members donating their time, along with logs and equipment. Many of the sister churches, as well as the Baptist State Convention, gave financial aid. Groundbreaking was held on March 24, 1963 and the Dedication Service was delivered by Rev. J. Bryan Doshier on November 22, 1964. The debt on the church building was retired in July, 1968.

Prospect church has licensed Rev. Thurston Little, licensed and ordained Rev. Clifton Clemmons and ordained Rev. Williams Reynolds and Rev. Robert McClain. The church has had 32 pastors, 15 deacons, 18 clerks, 17 Sunday School Superintendents and 13 treasurers.

The church was a member of the Old Brunswick Baptist Association, 1891-94; the Cape Fear Baptist Association, 1895-98; the Cape Fear-Columbus Baptist Association, 1899; and has been a member of the present Brunswick Baptist Association since 1899. The church has had a Sunday School since 1894. The first Training Union was organized in July, 1954. Church membership was in 1894, 36; in 1910, 50; in 1938, 56; in 1960, 76; in 1984, 48; in 1991, 40; and in 1999, 34.

On March 3, 1991 a Centennial Celebration was held. Rev. Tom Williams, pastor in 1926, preached the sermon. Mrs. Annie V. Phelps Sellers, Mrs. Edna Woodard and Mrs. Theodocia Clemmons Musselwhite were recognized as representatives of the "founding charter member families." Today the church's active membership is made up of descendants from these original members.

The church has received and accepted a challenge from Rev. Robert McClain, pastor, to enhance its presence in the community and to play a more prominent role in the lives of the people in the community. With his enthusiasm, dedication, and love of the Lord the church feels confident that our pastor will set the course as we enter the next millennium.

SABBATH HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1930

Sabbath Home Baptist Church had its beginning as a Methodist Sunday School in the year of 1914. In that year, two cousins - both by the name of Johnny Fulford - and a small group of men and women began meeting in an old house, owned by Mr. Samuel Fulford, Sr.

As a branch from Sharon Methodist Church, the group began prayer meetings. Shortly afterwards they organized a Sunday School with eight members: Mr. Johnny L. Fulford and wife, Rebecca Jean; Newman Fulford and wife, Edna; Mrs. Julia Caison; Mrs. Ella Gray; Mr. I.D. Fulford, and Mrs. Hannah Fulford. Although Mr. John Rodney Fulford and wife, Ada did not join with the Sunday School, since they were members of Sharon Church, they worked very hard in getting the church started along with their family.



In later years, the men of the church desiring a larger place to worship God and being led by the Holy Spirit, began cutting timbers for a new church. Mr. Willard Varnum, being a good carpenter was in charge of the work. They took some of the logs to Mr. Willie Kirby's lumber mill to have them dressed. The frame structure was of native pine.

One day a passer-by stopped and asked what was being built. Samuel Fulford, Sr. replied that it was to be a Sabbath Home. This is the name the church bears today. The new church was a one room building, having no classrooms. The church originally faced the cemetery.

By 1930 the need for a pastor and a regular worship service was realized by the growing number attending. Rev. Alford Clemmons held a revival and suggested that the membership organize as a church. The group organized with the Rev. Alford Clemmons as pastor.

On the fourth Sunday in March, 1930, the following brethren were set apart as deacons: John L. Fulford and Willard Varnum. Mr. Newman Fulford was appointed clerk and treasurer. Mr. James Caison, Sr. was appointed sexton.

Members from Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Pisgah church and Sharon Methodist Church joined as members. The church was received into the Association at the 1933 Annual Session. Records show there were 80 members in 1934. With the growth of the church till very good, a building committee was appointed in 194. This was to be a large wood building with class rooms and sanctuary.

By 1956, the church decided to build an even larger building to accommodate the growth. The beautiful brick structure was dedicated in 1965 at a cost of \$24,589.36. The church was air conditioned in 1966. In 1968 a left wing was added to the existing building as a fellowship hall. Also in 1968, Rev. Sidney Britt was called as the first full time pastor.

The structure of a four bedroom brick home was begun the first week in October 1974 as a parsonage. Rev. Doug Worley was pastor at this time.

A Church Library was started in April, 1976. On April 24, 1977, the parsonage was dedicated by Rev. Douglas Worley. The Library was dedicated in the afternoon with a message by Rev. Weston Varnum.

Family Night began on April 27, 1977, for the first time with the Brotherhood having its first meeting with Mr. James Harden as Director. There were also mission organization meetings. Easter Sunrise service was begun in 1973 by Rev. Grover Vaughn as an annual event at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

Carpet, church pews and furniture for the church were purchased. On March 17, 1980, building contractor, Thomas Gray began construction work to enlarge the sanctuary and added two classrooms. Cement sidewalks were placed around the church.

A PA system and a steeple with chimes were installed on November 4, 1980.

On July 19, 1987, a dedication of the Education and Fellowship Hall was held during the morning worship service.

Focus on WMU Week was held February 8-14, 1998. On Sunday night February 8, Mrs. Ina Belle Atkinson gave a talk concerning the work of Women On Missions and the work we are trying to accomplish in our own churches in North Carolina and different parts of the world. With our gifts of money, missionaries will be able to go to places we cannot go to win the lost to Christ.



SHALLOTTE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1837

Shallotte First Baptist Church is located in the town of Shallotte, North Carolina. The church was constituted in 1837, and was first named Chapel Hill Baptist Church. The name was changed to Shallotte First Baptist Church in 1954. Rev. Frank Johnson was pastor at that time.

Records show that the church was a member of Waccamaw Baptist Association as early as 1881. Due to associational changes, the church became a member of the Cape Fear-Columbus Association in 1895, but was received back into the Brunswick Association in 1900.

The first church building was a frame structure one mile east of the present site. The second church building was placed on the present site in 1886. It was destroyed by fire in 1931. All of the church's personal records

were destroyed in the fire. However, the Christian zeal of the church survived. Services were held in a barn belonging to Mr. Oscar Gray. Construction was begun at once on a third building. This building was a frame structure with brick foundation, six classrooms and closed off spaces in the sanctuary for four additional classrooms. This building was dedicated in April 1932. The present building, a brick structure, has ten classrooms, is modern and air conditioned. It was dedicated in the year 1965. At the present time the church is in the process of constructing a recreation/fellowship addition with five classrooms.

The church has reported a Sunday School to the Baptist State Board since 1902, but had a Sunday School all the years prior to that time.



Records show that church membership in 1897 was 73, in 1907 it was 69, in 1917 it was 112, in 1938 it was 118, in 1972 it was 242, and in of 1976 the membership was 188.

Our first resident clergyman was Rev. A.W. Nobles, who served as pastor from 1838 to 1848.

The parsonage was built in 1958. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1966, but was rebuilt the same year.

Baptist organizations in the church are, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action, Mission Friends and Royal Ambassadors, Crusaders and Church Training. A library was begun in 1975 under the auspices of Mrs. Ouida H. Hewett.

During 1997 activities included an Easter Cantata, a Sunday School picnic, Sweetheart Banquet, Harvest Day Celebration, and revivals. The youth were involved in preparing Thanksgiving bags for the residents of a local nursing facility, a Rock-a-thon, RA Derby, and filling food baskets for the needy. The church adopted the 5th grade at Shallotte Middle School through the Community In Schools program. We have prayer partners with many of the teachers and are collecting soup labels for educational and recreational equipment.

We are humbly grateful for the consecrated Christians of this church, both past and present. Let us humbly pray that we will serve the Lord and grow in God's grace until the final day of the coming of our Lord.

SHELL POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1960

Through July 1959, prayer meeting was conducted under Mr. Henry Williams' tobacco barn shed by Rev. J.D. Hales, Jr., and Archie W. Holden. On August 9, 1959, a Sunday School was organized by Archie W. Holden with seven present. The offering amounted to \$2.30 on that day, and by the end of the month it was \$9.55, with 24 enrolled and 24 present. The helpers who went from Mt. Pisgah Church to work in the Sunday School were Archie W. Holden, Harold

Robinson, Mrs. Selene Robinson and Mrs. Velma Robinson. Mrs. Berlyn Lancaster went to help on the 6th and 20th of August, then went regularly beginning on Oct. 4th. Linwood Brown and wife, Nelva Brown, came to help on October 4th acting as Supt. of Sunday School and Archie W. Holden conducted worship services.

In the beginning of the new year, Rev. A. B. Bennett came to preach and remained until after the church organized. The church building was dedicated on May 8, 1960 followed by lunch on the grounds. Rev. W. R. Moorehead preached the sermon, several choirs from other churches came to sing at the all day meeting. A revival meeting was conducted the week preceeding this meeting. Rev. Leo Cannon of Conway, S.C. did the preaching and the house was packed at almost every service.

The mission had been self-supporting from the first, buying literature, chairs, paying other bills and buying a piano in December.

and paying for it in three months. A very successful Vacation Bible School was conducted the last week in May, with attendance of about 30.

Shell Point Baptist Church was organized on August 21, 1960 with 12 members. Four by statement of Christian experience and others from other churches. Rev. B. Bennett was moderator of the organizational service. There were visiting members from four churches in the association, several taking part in the service.

In September 1960, Rev. H. B. Bennett was called as pastor. His health was not good, therefore he gave up his other churches. He has been a great help in the work at Shell Point.

In 1960, a report was carried to the Brunswick Association, asking for membership in the Association. Messengers named were: Archie W. Holden, Fletcher Hewett, Mrs. Berlyn Lancaster.

Rev. Jennis McLamb was asked to preach at the revival meeting beginning on October 16, 1960. Rev. Bennett accepted the pastorate of the church. Mrs. Berlyn S. Lancaster was elected as Church Clerk for 1960. The church received from the Baptist State Convention, a certificate stating that Shell Point Baptist Church was a part of the 30,000 movement of Southern Baptists. Mt. Pisgah is the mother church because many of the members of Mt. Pisgah Church started this church.

The church was received into the Brunswick Baptist Association on October 19, 1961, at the regular annual meeting held with Farmer's Chapel Church. In October 1961 a library of 52 books with bookcase was donated by a member. The church was paneled and a new wing was added and was ready for use on June 9, 1963. On July 21, 1963 Rev. Foyd Bennett accepted the pastorate of the church and the church requested Beulah Baptist Church to ordain him. On August 11, 1964 the church voted to build the other wing on the church and to enlarge the sanctuary. Bro. Bennett agreed to preach two Sundays each month.

New pews were ordered and were delivered November, 1965. Some other church furniture was also delivered this same date.

Shell Point Baptist Church has been self-supporting from the beginning and has no indebtness. There has been successful revivals and Vacation Bible Schools. It has made donations to the needy in the community and donated to several needy churches which were building or had a loss by fire.



SOLDIER BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1886

There is little written history still in existence about the early years of Soldier Bay Baptist Church. The church was constituted May 15, 1886 and Rev. J.A. Mintz was the first pastor. The organizational meeting was held in the kitchen of a little log cabin owned by J.A. Smith.

Shortly after the organizational meeting, members of the church got together to build a "meeting house." The first church was a small one-room building approximately 20 x 30 feet built upon land given to the church by J. A. Smith. Valentine Smith sawed the lumber at a nearby sawmill for the new church building. This church building stood near the present site of the home of Edward Smith.



In 1902 the church was moved to its present site. The land upon which the church was built was given by Valentine Smith and W.R. Coleman. The building was a wooden framed building with four rooms, a seating capacity for 300 and valued at \$1,500.00.

The first Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1940. Since that time almost every year, the school has been held. The church bulletin had its beginning on November 7, 1941.

At a conference on May 16, 1943, during the pastorate of Rev. Woodrow W. Robbins the church approved building a new church building. It was a long and

hard struggle which required much work and sacrifice to erect this beautiful brick building to the glory of God. After the church family started using the new brick building in 1945, the old wooden church building was sold and moved from the premises. The building was completed in October, 1947.

On May 25, 1986, our church was 100 years old. We celebrated the birthday by dressing in old-style clothing and we had dinner in the fellowship hall. There were special singing that night.

Rev. Charlie Smith, who grew up in our church, was called as pastor in December, 1990. However, he did not begin full-time pastoring until March, 1991. He has held the position longer than any other pastor we have had.

We realized that there was special need for the handicapped and a chair lift was installed outside the church beside the front porch. New heat and central air units were put in the church and fellowship hall.

Our church is assisting the Brunswick Association in a Spanish Ministry. The new Spanish church will be located in the Ash area.

Other on-going projects will be completed in the near future. Two of the projects are the clothes closet and a food pantry for the needy.

A total of 31 pastors have served our church since its beginning. Much has been accomplished through their leadership. We give God the praise and glory for them.

SOUTHPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1871

A little group of Baptists in the town of Smithville began thinking seriously of building a house of worship and organizing themselves into a church. The group, for the most part, were members at the Bethel Baptist Church located several miles from Smithville and felt that they should have a place of worship nearer their homes. For quite some time prior to 1871 they had been meeting in homes. Later as their numbers grew they began meeting in the courthouse.

Money was scarce and living conditions at a low ebb but faith and love for God were strong in their hearts and so the work of building the "neat and comfortable house of worship" on a lot on the corner of Howe and Nash streets in Franklin Square, and facing on Nash Street, was begun, with John L. Wescott furnishing most of the money in the sum of about \$1,200 and also a part of the labor. The building was commenced March 14, 1871.

The First Baptist Church of Wilmington seems to have taken quite an interest in the Smithville Church. One of her deacons, George R. French, gave the bell to the church and another, Philip Heinsberger, Sr., gave the first minutes book. Their pastor, Rev. J. C. Hiden, preached the dedication sermon on Sunday, September 24, 1871.



In April, 1876, 13 members of Bethel Baptist Church were given letters of dismissal for "the purpose of constituting a church of the name faith and order in the Town of Smithville."

By 1892 the church now Southport Baptist Church (renamed in 1887) was seeking a regular pastor. The minutes of September 22, 1892, recorded that the Committee on Pastoral Relations reported that they were recommending that Rev. J. H. Hildreth of Wilmington be called as pastor with the understanding that he make Southport his home. He was expected to preach half time with his salary to be \$150.00 per year.

Church records from 1902-1915 are missing. However, the 1905 Brunswick Baptist Association minutes list the church as composed of 111 members. Early in this period the WMU was organized. Mrs. J. J. Laughlin moved to Southport and became active in WMU work. She was instrumental in forming other WMU organizations in the association.

In the early part of the century the parsonage was built. Rev. J. L. Jenkins, who was serving as interim pastor and later as pastor, was

ordained by the church.

It was during the ministry of Rev. A. L. Turner in 1928 that the church building was turned around to face on Howe Street. Next, war came suddenly on Sunday, December 7, 1941, saddening all of us. The church immediately began plans for ministering to service men, both from the local church and those stationed nearby.

In 1948 the decision was made to remodel and enlarge the existing building. On November 25, 1948 - Thanksgiving Day - the first service was held in the newly enlarged and remodeled building. It was truly a day of great thanksgiving and rejoicing among the membership.

This seems to have marked the beginning of a new era. The Unified Budget System was adopted as was the rotating system of deacons, and for the first time women were ordained as deacons. The Sunday School was completely departmentalized. Vacation Bible School work increased in effectiveness each year. In February, 1953, one of our members, Mrs. Margaret McRackan, daughter of a former pastor, Rev. Braxton Craig, became Associational Missionary for the Brunswick Association and served in that capacity until her resignation in 1965.

In 1959, Mr. E. F. Middleton, developer of Long Beach, gave the church two lots at Long Beach for the establishment of a church there and immediately plans were begun for this purpose. With the aid of State Missions the church known as Oak Island Baptist Church was started as a mission of our church.

The years between 1960 and 1965 found us busy with local affairs and increasing our gifts to Home and Foreign Missions as well as to Associational Missions. Sunday School attendance continued to increase and again we began to feel the urgent need for more space and a building committee was appointed. We have now completed for construction of the first phase of the proposed new Educational Building. Church membership in 1971 totals 438 with the value of church property at \$260,000. However, much work must yet be done to our buildings: more leaders must be trained and more people must be won to the Lord, and new ways must be devised for ministering to this community in this Space Age in which we live.

SUNSET HARBOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1968

Sunset Harbor Baptist Church, with eight charter members, was constituted on February 25, 1968. Rev. Lindsay Clemmons was the first pastor. The first deacons were Henry C. Hinson, Johnnie Bowling and S. D. Thompson. Prior to this date the church was a mission known as Howell's Point. Antioch Baptist Church was the sponsoring church of the mission.

In 1954 persons in the Howell's Point area under the leadership of Mrs. Lily Thompson began having missionary circle meetings and during their meetings discussed the possibility of a church being established in this area. Worship services were begun and were held in individual homes. These services were first held in the home of Mr. Dennis Whitley and later in the home of Mrs. Lily Thompson and still later in a house belonging to Mr. S. D. Thompson.

The first service in the new church building was held in July 1955 or 1956. The church building itself was not complete.



The land was given to the mission by Ralph and Dewey Clemmons. Men from Antioch Baptist Church, as well as persons from the Howell's Point Mission, worked diligently for the building to be completed. Numerous donations were made by various persons to see the building completed.

The persons of the mission worked to raise money to build the church building. Mr. E. C. Blake of Blake Builders, Southport, gave some of the lumber for the building of the church building.

The pulpit furniture was given to the mission by Bethel Baptist Church of Southport, N.C.

The church bell was given by Mr. Myers, a Morman. This bell had been used by his family for several generations and was donated with the request that should the mission be discontinued, the bell should be returned to his family.

Many lay persons have worked in the mis-

sion through years and have helped considerably with its growth.

Mrs. Mae Parsons, for years, gave of her time and talent to teach Sunday School. Mr. Jimmy Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mitchell worked for a number of years in the mission. Mrs. Mitchell was children's teacher and Mr. Mitchell served as pianist and Sunday School Superintendent. Rev. Luther Hawkins also gave of his time to help with the mission. This area was for years mainly a summer resort and without the aid and support of a number of persons having summer homes in the area, the mission probably could not have survived.

The first pastor of Howell's Point Mission was Rev. W. R. Lingle. He was pastor of Antioch Baptist Church and met with the persons at the mission on Sunday afternoon for services. Some of the other men who have served as pastor or supply pastor are: Rev. W. R. Moorehead, Rev. Raymond Hall, Rev. Lonza Benton, Rev. Weston Varnum, and Rev. Lindsey Clemmons.

The mission moved right along through the years and early in 1967 the persons from the mission met and voted unanimously to ask to be constituted into a church. This request was brought to the deacons of the Antioch Baptist Church and in turn was brought before the church on 1 October 1967. Antioch Baptist Church voted unanimously to accept the request of Howell's Point Baptist Mission to be constituted into a church and further agreed to make a deed to the mission transferring the building and land to them with no strings attached.

On 24 October 1967 a meeting was held at Antioch Baptist Church with persons from Antioch Baptist Church, the Mission, and Rev. Henry Register, Associational Missionary, to discuss plans to constitute.

In January, 1987 a note burning ceremony was held to end the \$30,000 indebtedness on the sanctuary. The loan made possible by a couple in the church was paid off in three years.

During 1998 the church held a spring and fall revival. During the pastorate of Rev. Brian Chilton, a Fruitland graduate with an enthusiasm that is contagious, 14 members have been added.

SUPPLY BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1948

On the first Sunday morning in January, 1948, 20 persons of Supply community assembled in the vacant store building of J. J. Hawes located at Supply and organized a Sunday School. A goodly number of persons assembled again in the evening and organized a Baptist Training Union. J. J. Hawes was elected to serve as the first Sunday School Superintendent and V. E. Galloway, Sr. was elected Training Union Director. These two organizations functioned very effectively and the desire and interest for the establishment of a church grew. Then a committee was appointed and a church organization program was set in motion on March 21, 1948 at which time Supply Baptist church was constituted. There were 19 charter members.



On December 12, 1948 the church extended a call to Rev. Carl Talley to become the first pastor. Soon thereafter, excavation was started for the construction of a church building on the land then owned by J. J. Hawes. A cinder block building had previously been purchased from the government at Maffitt Village, Wilmington, N.C. and moved nearby for use in the construction of a church building. After many discussions and study of church buildings the church approved a plan to construct a church building of cinder blocks, size 34 x 60 feet, with a basement.

The fourth Sunday in each month was designated a "Building Fund Day" and the offerings on that day were considered as Building Fund. It was amazing how our people responded to the call. Many contributions came in from non-members in the community and many came in from friends and business interests both outside of the community and the county. Mr. Lennell W. Hewett was employed to work on and supervise the construction of the building. Many members and non-members gave free labor and the work progressed as the building took shape on a pay as you go basis.

In mid-summer, 1950, we began using the new church building for all services.

On March 12, 1950 the church extended a call to Rev. Taft Hewett to become pastor. He served as pastor until February 10, 1952. Two of our members, Brothers Dennis R. Hewett and Elwood Gore, had applied for and were granted licenses to preach. Rev. Elwood Gore succeeded Rev. Taft Hewett and served as supply pastor until the summer of 1952 when Rev. W. M. Ussery came as pastor on half time basis. Rev. Henry L. Register became our next pastor on half time basis effective July 1, 1953. He later served on full time basis until July 1, 1956. On August 12, 1956 the church extended a call to Rev. Fred Johnson.

Ground breaking services for the parsonage were held on November 11, 1956. Construction was under the supervision of Mr. Walter Sellers. Much material and labor was donated by members and non-members of the church. The home was completed and occupied in April, 1957.

Two directors of missions were former pastors of Supply Church: Rev. Henry L. Register and Rev. A.R. Waisner.

Supply church, being centrally located in the county, serves as a host church for many associational meetings.

TOWN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1884

About the year 1888-1890 a small group of people being led by the Holy Spirit, started a church and Sunday School. This small group met in a one room public school house located on upper Town Creek.

This movement was under the guidance of Rev. John Callahan.

By the year 1898, there was a recognized need for a

house of worship.

They chose a site on the main road that is still known as the "Fork of the Creek." This lot contained one acre and was deeded to the trustees of Town Creek Church.



Much work was done in preparation for soul-winning in the years that followed. Many men of God came on the scene, among these were Rev. George Sellers, Rev. Lester Mintz and Rev. Dempsey Hewett, all of these preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dempsey Hewett was pastor in 1907. The building was not ceiled, cash was not available, cash was not available, so the church entertained a motion to ask for voluntary gifts, R.F. DeVaune, lumber manufacturer, donated lumber and the church was ceiled.

In Oct. 1916 it was time for revival meeting, the building not yet ready, they assembled and built a bush shelter, Rev. Josh Bullock preached in the revival, people came from all over the country and many were saved and added to the church.

Among the good servants that came to us in these days were Rev. Alferd Clemmons and the Rev. Frank Potter who was called as pastor in Sept. 1919. He preached with patience and the church once more began to revive. In or about 1922, the church

called Rev. J. I. Stone for pastor, the church was weak financially and membership was at a low ebb. The faithful few refused to quit.

Oct. 10-19, 1937 Rev. Tom Johnston conducted the revival meeting that was to answer prayers. So great did the Holy Spirit strive in our midst, that 40 souls were added to the church. Men that had scarcely been seen in the church in years walked the aisles for Christ.

The church continued to grow and in Sept. 1948 we called Rev. L. L. Barnes for pastor, the membership was now 116 and we needed more building space. Under the leadership of Bro. Barnes we decided to build a new building and sell the old. The site was donated by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Young. The contract for the new building was let at the approximate cost of \$20,000.

In 1950-1952 many things were to take our time and attention, a well to drill, lunch table built, flowers set out, a spare room in the attic with stairs to reach it as a fire escape, a steeple to erect. Mr. Guilford Cumbee donated a brass bell in memory of his parents. In 1952 we set out to build more class rooms, and seven were built in record time.

In the mean time God had called Bro. Elbert Curtis Rogers to the ministry, the first of our own young men to be called to preach the gospel. He was licensed by the church to preach on Sept. 13, 1952. On July 6, 1955 we called our own Bro. Rogers as pastor for 3 months. He was ordained on Oct. 23, 1955. This was a great day for Town Creek Church. On Jan. 20, 1957, the church granted Elmore Eugene Hooks license to preach.

A member of Cape Fear Association, 1884-90; of Cape Fear-Columbus Association, 1899; received into Brunswick Association, 1900. First resident clergyman, Rev. John Paul Lennon, 1884-88. The church has reported a Sunday School since the date of construction. Church membership in 1884, 37; in 1910, 46; in 1920, 19; and in 1938, 66.

Mrs. Shirley Corbett Babson, member of Town Creek Baptist Church, wrote her memories of growing up in the church and the activities she was involved in. "I have been a part of the Brunswick Baptist association for over 50 years. My family moved to Brunswick County after World War II and my step-grandmother began taking me to Sabbath Home church for Sunday school, preaching, BTU and prayer meeting.

The association opened up Gods world to me. I was exposed to missionaries from all over the world. The membership of the churches that joined to form the association had a great influence on the kind of person I am today.

When I was younger most of the churches had rough, wooden plank benches to sit upon, paper funeral home fans to cool with and outhouses located a distance from the building. The fans had beautiful pictures of Bible characters. We now sit on cushioned pews in air conditioned buildings with indoor plumbing.

One of my favorite activities of the association was the fifth Sunday singing conventions. I remember it was a little more difficult to sing in the afternoon after eating dinner on the ground. Long, plank tables groaned with delicious food brought by all the ladies. After the blessing we helped ourselves to ham, fish, chicken and vegetables too numerous to name. Rich, homemade desserts topped off the meal. My favorite was homemade yellow cake with fudge icing.

Through the years I've had the privilege of serving in several positions in the association. I thank God for the privilege."

WOODBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1969

Woodburn First Baptist church had its beginning in a little coffee shop on Highways 74-76 and 17 in 1968, when about a dozen people began to hold meetings to see if a church could be organized. There had been three earlier attempts to establish a mission in this area. Each resulting in failure.

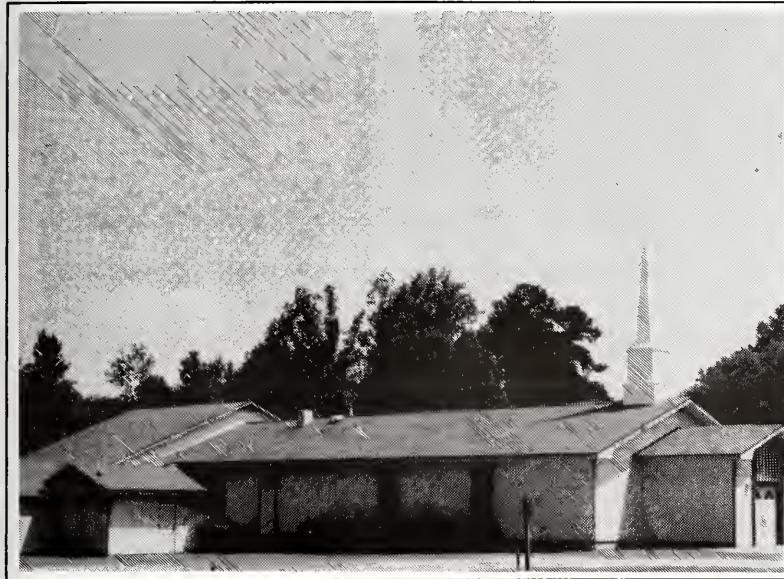
In March, 1969, Reverend J. Lanier Dew, a licensed minister, was invited to preach and under his ministry and direction the church was organized.

After organizing, the church voted to call Rev. Dew as its first pastor and requested the Riegelwood Baptist Church to ordain him. After being examined and recommended by the Ordination Council of the Columbus Association, Rev. Dew was ordained May 18,

1969, at Riegelwood Baptist Church. Woodburn requested to come under the watchcare of the Brunswick Association in October, 1969, and were received into full fellowship in October, 1970, at the Annual Session being held with Friendship Baptist Church.

The first services were held in the present building on Easter Sunday, 1969. The church has grown steadily since its beginning and was second in new members in the 1970 and 1971 church years in the entire Association, 49 of them coming by profession of faith.

Woodburn Church has an active WMU organization which has added to the growth of the church. Under the auspices of the Brotherhood we have Crusader and



Pioneer groups working, which also add to the growth of the church.

We have added six classrooms to our Sunday School Department and now have 11 rooms for church training. To our present structure we have added a kitchen and fellowship hall where we look forward to many happy hours together.

Woodburn First Baptist Church has had a full-time ministry since March, 1972, and reported 196 resident members in our 1972 Report. Currently our church property is valued at \$55,000, with about \$3,000 indebtedness.

Rev. Charles Trull was called as pastor in 1978. He and his wife left in June, 1981 to serve a three year term in Germany as a missionary pastor.

Rev. Wayne Mayberry was guest speaker at revival services held October 14-19, 1979. Homecoming followed the revival with dinner on the grounds and special singing later in the afternoon.

Time nor space will allow the "great things that God has done in this work" to be told. We will end by simply saying, "God loves us and blesses us, and we pray that we and our sister churches in the Association may realize this more in the new year and be more faithful in his service."



HISTORICAL TABLE OF BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FROM ITS ORGANIZATION

Date	Place	Moderator	Clerk	Treasurer	Annual Sermon
1899	Shallotte	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	Isaac Milliken	D.L. Hewett
1900	Mount Pisgah	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	Isaac Milliken	J.A. Mintz
1901	Shallotte	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	Isaac Milliken	D.L. Hewett
1902	Jennies Branch	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	Isaac Milliken	E.J. Edwards
1903	Lebanon	I.W. Harrelson	Isaac Jenrette	J.A. Mintz	A.H. Porter
1904	Long Branch	I.W. Harrelson	Isaac Jenrette	J.A. Mintz	B.G. Early
1905	Poley Bridge	I.W. Harrelson	Isaac Jenrette	J.A. Mintz	D.L. Hewett
1906	Antioch	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	G. Washington Sellers	J.A. Mintz
1907	Soldier Bay	J.A. Mintz	Isaac Jenrette	G. Washington Sellers	H.F. Brinson
1908	Mount Pisgah	O.B. Sellers	Cornelius Thomas	L.S. Swain	J.C. Mizell
1909	Southport	D.I. Watson	Geo H. Gray	J.O. Lennon	D.L. Hewett
1910	Beulah	D.I. Watson	Geo H. Gray	J.O. Lennon	J.O. Fullbright
1911	Brunswick	Chas H. Phillips	Geo H. Gray	J.O. Lennon	J.L. Jenkins
1912	Cool Run	D.I. Watson	Geo H. Gray	Geo H. Gray	J.C. Mizell
1913	Mount Pisgah	D.L. Hewett	Geo H. Gray	Geo H. Gray	P.T. Britt
1914	Lebanon	C.C. Wheeler	D. Sam Rich	D. Sam Rich	C.C. Wheeler
1915	Antioch	R.M. Wescott	D. Sam Rich	D. Sam Rich	G.T. Hickman
1916	Oak Grove	Elisha Sellers	D. Sam Rich	D. Sam Rich	
1917	New Britton	Isaac Jenrette	D. Sam Rich	D. Sam Rich	P.T. Britt
1918	Prospect	P.T. Britt	B.R. Page	B.R. Page	P.T. Britt
1919					
1920	Friendship	Isaac Jenrette	Eugene H. Gray	Eugene H. Gray	D.L. Hewett
1921	Chapel Hill	J.I. Stone	Eugene H. Gray	Eugene H. Gray	
1922	Mount Pisgah	D.L. Hewett	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	J.J. Adams
1923	Southport	G.T. Hickman	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	A.C. Hamby
1924	Cool Run	V.C. Garner	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	
1925	Friendship	V.C. Garner	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.C. Wescott
1926	Lebanon	V.C. Garner	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.H. McKeithan
1927	Antioch	V.C. Garner	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	B.R. Page
1928	Bolivia	V.C. Garner	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.R. Beach
1929	Mount Pisgah	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	J.A. Campbell
1930	Chapel Hill	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	J.A. Neilson
1931	Mill Creek	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	R.E. Sentelle
1932	Bethel	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	J.J. Adams
1933	Beulah	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	T.H. Biles
1934	Chapel Hill	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	R.E. Sentelle
1935	Friendship	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	T.H. Biles
1936	Goshan	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	H.S. Strickland
1937	Mill Creek	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.R. Cullum
1938	Prospect	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	M.L. Mintz
1939	Farmer's Chapel	B.R. Page	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	A.L. Brown
1940	Mount Pisgah	Z.G. Ray	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	H.F. Bean
1941	Town Creek	A.L. Brown	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	S.H. Coward
1942	Longwood	A.L. Brown	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.W. Robbins
1943	Lebanon	E.J. Prevatte	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	H.B. Bennett
1944	Elah	E.J. Prevatte	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	C.R. Taylor
1945	Goshen	E.J. Prevatte	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	W.G. Phelps
1946	Friendship	S.I. Mintz	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	C.S. Smith
	Mill Creek				
1947	Southport	S.I. Mintz	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	E.E. Ulrich
	Shallotte				
1948	New Life	H.M. Baker	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	T.F. Johnson
	Antioch				
1949	Sabbath Home	H.M. Baker	John Jenrette	John Jenrette	H.B. Bennett
	Leland				
1950	Chapel Hill	H.M. Baker	John Jenrette	Ressie R. Whatley	H.B. Bennett
	Mill Creek				

1951	Beulah Supply	John Jenrette	A.S. Knowles	Ressie R. Whatley	Jennis McLamb
1952	Jennies Branch Southport	Dennis R. Hewett	A.S. Knowles	Ressie R. Whatley	W.R. Moorehead C.O. Blanton
1953	Soldier Bay Elah	H.L. Clemmons	C.O. Blanton	Ressie R. Whatley	R.K. Redwine H.W. Crainshaw
1954	Mount Pisgah Bolivia	H.L. Clemmons	C.O. Blanton	Ressie R. Whatley	Leo F. Hawkins J.W. Mears
1955	Mill Creek Friendship	H.L. Clemmons	C.O. Blanton	Ressie R. Whatley	H.L. Register J.R. McDuffie
1956	Town Creek Prospect	Leo F. Hawkins	Mary E. Long	Ressie R. Whatley	J.D. Hales, Jr. W. Luther Hawkins
1957	Shallotte Mill Creek Supply	Leo F. Hawkins	Warren Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	Harold Gore Luther Copeland Avery Lumsden
1958	Antioch Shallotte FBC Leland	J.D. Hales, Jr.	Warren Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	W.T. Lundy Garland Hendrix Paul F. Hardy
1959	Jennies Branch Mill Creek Bethel	J.D. Hales, Jr.	Warren Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	J.R. Scales L.H. Hollingsworth M.S. McLain
1960	Friendship Town Creek Beulah	J.D. Hales, Jr.	Warren Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	W. Amis Daniel Herbert Baker J.H. Lackey
1961	Southport Farmer's Chapel	Mark Owens	John R. Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	J.C. Shaw Mark Owens
1962	Shallotte FBC Lebanon	Mark Owens	John R. Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	R.W. Rollins Bruce Lanier
1963	Old Shallotte Boones Neck	Mark Owens	John R. Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	D.G. Thomas Arvel Crawford
1964	Mount Pisgah Calvary	J. Tyler Potter Kirby Sullivan	John R. Sellers	Ressie R. Whatley	Bruce Lanier Richard Williams
1965	Elah Supply	Kirby Sullivan	Eldridge Ludlum	Ressie R. Whatley	Perry Whisnant Fred Nordan
1966	Southport Beulah	Kirby Sullivan	Eldridge Ludlum	Ruth Galloway	G. Scott Turner Jennis McLamb
1967	Antioch Soldier Bay	D.G. Thomas	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	C.L. Turner Jesse Bentley
1968	Elah Gospel Center	D.G. Thomas	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Dr. W.C. Mebane Arthur W. Waisner
1969	Sabbath Home Peace Memorial	Jesse Bentley	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Raymond Whitfield D.G. Thomas
1970	North Carolina Baptist Assembly Friendship	Jesse Bentley	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	James C. Spivey Leo Cannon
1971	Antioch Southport	Sidney D. Britt	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Dennis R. Hewett L.J. Benton
1972	Woodburn FBC Shallotte FBC	Sidney D. Britt	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Weston L. Varnam Sidney D. Britt
1973	Leland Friendship	Leo Cannon	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	W. Perry Crouch Truette Rogers
1974	Elah Jennies Branch	Leo Cannon	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Henry L. Register B.T. Tucker, Jr.
1975	Mill Creek Ocean View	Ernest C. Poston, Jr.	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	T.L. Cashwell James C. Spivey
1976	Old Shallotte Goshen	Ernest C. Poston, Jr.	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Carl E. Bates Sarah Ann Hobbs
1977	Leland Sabbath Home	Truette Rogers	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Truette Rogers B. Douglas Worley

1978	Supply Beulah	James D. Craig	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Dr. Thomas Cortis Vance Tyson
1979	Southport Soldier Bay	James D. Craig	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Avery Lumsden John W. Elder, Jr.
1980	Antioch Goshen	A.G. Ferris	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Del E. Parkerson James S. Potter
1981	Town Creek New Life	A.G. Ferris	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Roy D. Cable Billy L. Buchanan
1982	Shell Point Boiling Spg. Lks.FBC	A.G. Ferris	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Dr. Robert L. Goode Astor L. McGee
1983	Shallotte FBC Mount Pisgah	Jesse Bentley	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	V.C. Potter, Jr. James A. Whitworth
1984	Calvary Southport	Jesse Bentley	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Tom M. Freeman Woodrow W. Robbins
1985	Mount Olive Sunset Harbor	Hartwell Condrey	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Tom Walton S.L. Doty, Jr.
1986	Elah Jennies Branch	Hartwell Condrey	John W. Butler	Ruth Galloway	Kirk Lawton Vincent Wall
1987	Leland Old Shallotte	J. Bryan Doshier	Susan S. Carson	Ruth Galloway	Randy Gruber Franklin Myers
1988	Friendship Mount Pisgah	J. Bryan Doshier	Susan S. Carson	Ruth Galloway	Wayne Trexler Bill Greer
1989	Southport Calvary	V.C. Potter, Jr.	Susan S. Carson	Ruth Galloway	J.W. Hutchens Thurman Alfred
1990	Ocean View Shallotte FBC	V.C. Potter, Jr.	Susan S. Carson	Ruth Galloway	Dr. William Bennett Dr. William Bennett
1991	Supply Goshen	Wayne Trexler	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	Doug Huff Dr. Jack Hancox
1992	Antioch Gospel Center	Wayne Trexler	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	Herman Absher Dr. Paul D. Early
1993	Faith Oak Island	Herman Absher	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	Wade Laughter Arthur Yount
1994	Sabbath Home	Herman Absher	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	
1995	Beach Road	Macon Wood	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	Greg Mathias Charlie Pittman
1996	Brunswick Islands	Macon Wood	Lalon Willoughby	Ruth Galloway	C.J. Bordeaux Terrell Watts
1997	Soldier Bay	Avery Lumsden	Arlene Hallman	Ruth Galloway	Milton Hollifield Chris Hall
1998	Oak Grove	Avery Lumsden	Arlene Hallman	Ruth Galloway	Dr. Mac Brunson Dr. John Peverett
1999	Jennies Branch	David Stratton	Arlene Hallman	Ruth Galloway	Michael Cummings Anthony Clemmons

*Annual Session not held in 1919. Influenza epidemic.

** No records of printed minutes for the 1921 Annual Session. Lost at printers.

DIGEST OF GROWTH - BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1899- 1999

Year	Total baptisms	Additions by statements, letter, etc.	Resident church members	Total church members	Sunday School enrollment	Training Union enrollment	WMU enrollment	Brotherhood enrollment	V.B.S. enrollment	Total churches V.B.S.	Cooperative program	Associational missions	Total mission expenditures	Total receipts	Number of churches
1899				575											9
1904	79	43		1594	991							18	213	1428	22
1909	92	53		1547	1078							30	469	3698	19
1913	73	70		1550	1275							94	486	3787	25
1917	76	83		2013	1277		438					44	1008	4416	22
1925	58	46		1428	1255	53	403*					84	2632	8769	15
1930	153			1644	1533	251**	421					44	1527	7100	19
1935	99	77		1961	1468	288	261		158	1	335	53	1253	9023	20
1940	93	65		2382	2110	227	311		166	2	457	46	1497	8452	22
1945	62	46	2338	2680	2128	222	439		457	7	2298	94	6112	28374	23
1950	93	64	2307	3004	2848	692	623	30	1587	25	1841	1531	8293	54517	27
1955	165	172	2919	3755	3514	1006	729	290	1709	27	3741	2309	12014	98302	29
1960	158	131	3379	4282	3510	1185	786	267	1655	26	5483	3050	15965	142759	29
1965	130	153	3585	4746	3874	1109	791	141	1885	29	9522	3637	21419	195653	37
1966	109	133	3701	4814	3860	1061	794	196	1825	29	10235	4692	23618	198352	37
1967	139	113	3618	4778	3849	941	804	187	1948	32	10728	6777	27023	236282	37
1968	216	112	3800	4922	3942	928	769	139	1982	29	12173	6804	29793	270504	37
1969	185	133	3751	5028	3823	933	795	148	1724	26	12778	6892	31969	317513	37
1970	236	202	3910	5324	4051	947	774	192	1973	32	14910	6914	34786	354764	38
1971	172	223	4096	5455	4141	682	832	280	2028	29	16620	8056	41401	410569	38
1975	219	295	4932	6509	4469	768	1016	344	2607	32	28700	13237	40595	704304	38
1980	232	202	5416	7002	4429	725	977	403	2055	30	51504	29212	138162	1707438	39
1985	235	338	6673	8245	4789	621	1299	517	2618	32	92803	42000	248234	1778870	41
1990	279	370	6954	8746	5098	648	1255	531	2596	33	125492	54366	324602	2306602	42
1995	315	365	7265	9234	5513	633	1198	644	3094	31	200003	86489	534927	3512901	42
1996	232	316	6755	8698	5243	815	1085	575	3122	31	187064	84132	406713	3380188	44
1997	278	366	7037	9786	5676	1202	1134	899	3002	27	239268	99954	564190	3877775	43
1998	270	362	6661	8510	4915	1490	1023	825	2368	27	213722	90503	520560	591511	40
1999															

* 1927 Minutes

** 1932 Minutes

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1899

DEAR BRETHREN: Immediately after our appointment we met and organized, and adjourned to meet at Shallotte Saturday before the second Sunday in January, 1900. At our first meeting we disposed of the unfinished business of the Association. The Treasurer was ordered to forward all funds to the proper authorities. After a careful survey of the field your committee found that our churches were supplied with pastors; we therefore considered the best plans for forwarding the mission work of the Association. We recommended that each church organize a Missionary Board to work in the church. We are glad to say most of the churches organized said Missionary Boards, and did good service during the latter part of the Associational year.

Mill Creek Church

WMU Presidents and Church Members



Mrs. G.T. (Celia) Sellers
1907-1917



Mrs. Everette (Elizabeth) Lewis
1925-1931



Mrs. A.J. (Galveston) Sellers
1936-1942



Mrs. H.L. (Beula) Willetts
1944-47



Mrs. James V. (Valley) Gore
1948-1951, 1954-56



Mrs. Radway (Eliz) Sellers
1957



Mrs. John (Alda) Lewis
1966-68, 1981-83



Miss Pauline Lewis
1970-77



Mrs. Nellie Sue Creech
1985-1990



Mrs. Bige (Vera) Bowling
1991-1999



Mrs. Roger (Dottie) Lewis
1999



Mr. & Mrs. James V. Gore
1946



Rev. & Mrs. George Thomas
(Elizabeth Robbins) Hickman
1944

Pastor 1927
Associational WMU Secretary



Mrs. Bige (Vera) Bowling, 1942

Associational Officers Past And Present



**Virgin Batton, Vice-Moderator
1999-**



**Arlene Hallman, Clerk
1997-**



**Ruth Galloway-Treasurer
1966-**



**Elias Jesse Prevatte,
Parliamentarian
1976-1995**



**Rex Gore, Parliamentarian
1996-**



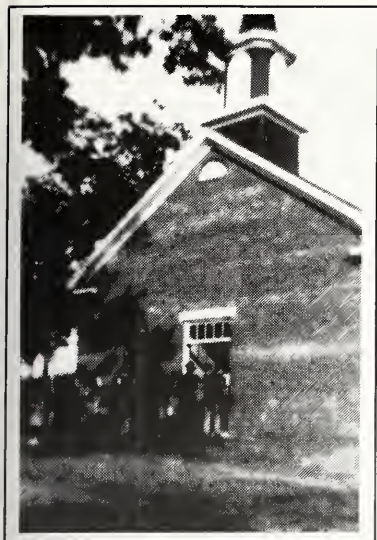
**John W. Butler, Clerk
1967-1986**



**John Jenrette
Clerk 1922-1950, Treasurer 1922-1949
Moderator 1951**



**Ressie R. Whatley
Treasurer, 1950-1965**



Antioch Church, 1945.



Antioch Church, 1890.



Rev. Clayton Rivenbark, New Life Church



Vacation Bible School, Prospect Church, 1959.



Rev. and Mrs. William Ussery and children.
Soldier Bay Church, 1950-1952.

**Mt. Pisgah, 1952, Groundbreaking for parsonage,
Rev. E. C. Reeves (with shovel) pastor.**





Long Branch Church, Longwood, NC, Ca. 1905



Regan Church, Regan Crossroads, NC, 1907. The church shared the building with Regan School.
W.F. Brinson, (3rd row second from left) principal and pastor.



Rev. Anson Smith, Pastor, New Life Church, 1975-1988. His longest pastorate.



Shell Point Church, first building, constructed early 1960's. Now a private residence.



New Life, Baptizing at Juniper Creek, Easter morning, April 19, 1992, Rev. Mark Brown, pastor.



Old Soldier Bay Church, left to right: unknown, Mrs. Hazel Purvis, Wilma Phelps.



Prospect Church, 1938
Rev. T. Frank Johnson,
pastor.



Rev. & Mrs. E. W. Pate and daughter,
Antioch Church, 1944.



Old Shallotte Church, Thanksgiving 1930. Left to right (top
row) Rev. W.A.C. Harrelson, Bob Grissett, Herbert Mintz.



Jenette Davis Moore's Sunday School Class.



Unknown Quartet at 1959 Singing Conven-
tion, Prospect Church.



Goshen Church Baptismal Service, Hoods Creek, Ca. 1915.

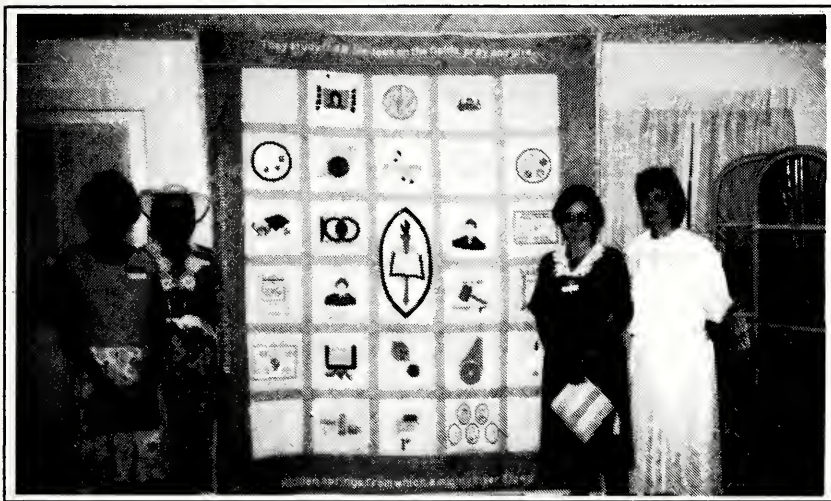


Goshen Church original sanctuary - built 1852.



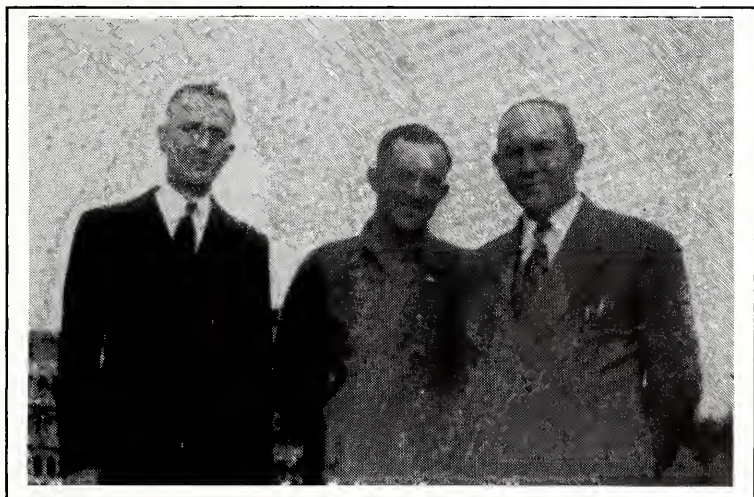
Goshen Church Sunday School, Ca. 1905.

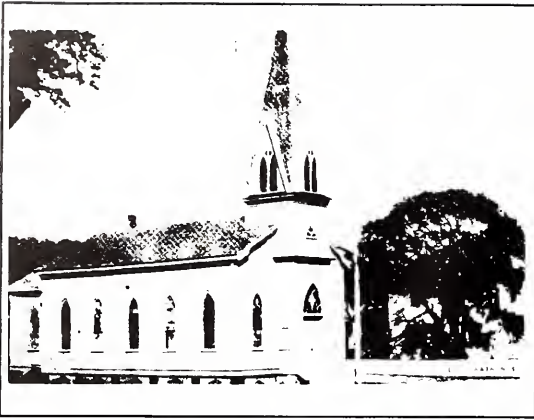
Beulah Baptist Church,
Easter, 1973.



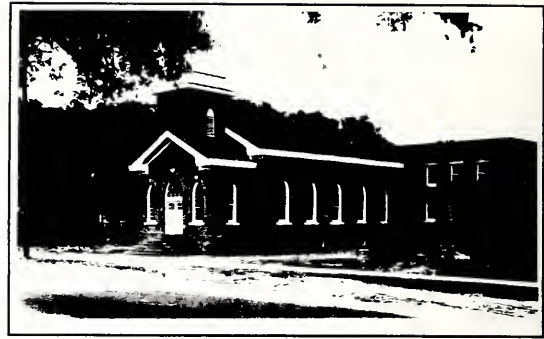
WMU Quilt. Left to Right:
Diane Davis, Janice Singletary,
Joyce Robinson, Gayla Varnam.

Supply Church, 1948 or 1949.
Left to Right: J.J. Hawes, Dennis
Hewett, Rev. Carl Talley, Pastor.

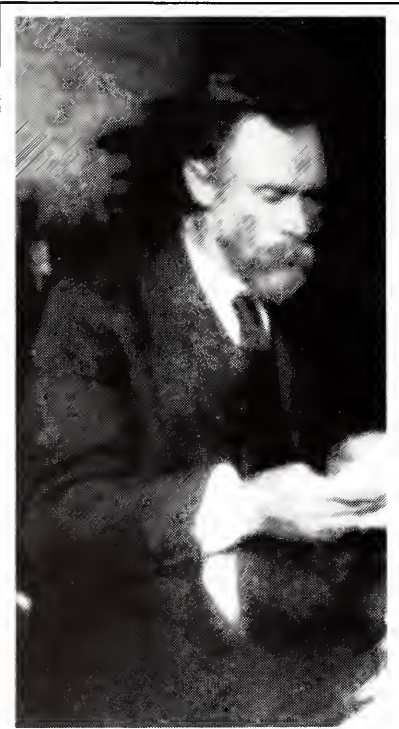




Southport Church
1907-1928



Southport Church, 1948-1969



Rev. Dempsey Lennon Hewett
1868-1930



Rev. Alfred Wright Clemmons
1872-1932



Rev. James Isham Stone
1879-1926

Mt. Olive, 1913 (originally known as Shiloh) Rev. Alford Clemmons is standing in front row, fourth from right





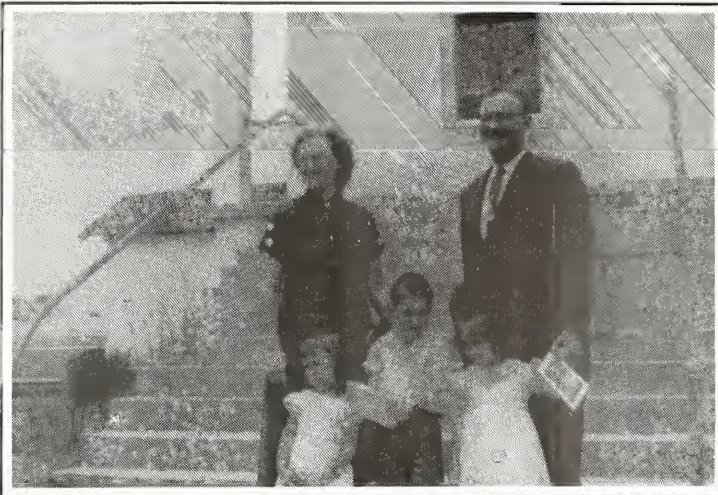
Old Shallotte Church, 1930. Left to Right: Herbert Mintz, song director; Rev. W.A.C. Harrelson, pastor; Bob Grissett, deacon; Allen Russ, deacon; Grover Gore, deacon; Don Harrelson, deacon.



Old Shallotte Church, 1930. Left to Right: Beatrice Moody, Polly Thompson, Clara Moody, Janie Wilson, Mayam Grissett, Betty Grissett (front)



Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lindon and Stella Clemmons. A typical Sunday morning, 1959.



Supply Church, 1953. Rev. and Mrs. Henry L. Register and children Carolyn, Tommy and Peggy.



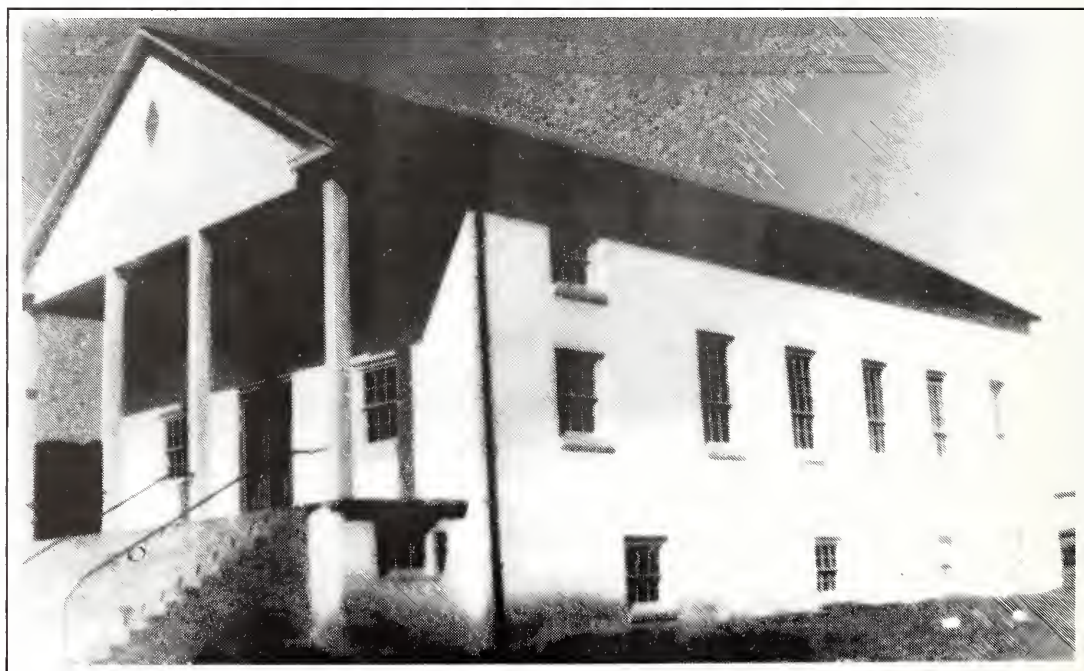
Elah Church, Ca. 1917.



Mrs. John Newman (Berlyn Sellers) Lancaster, Sr. 1893-1979. Member of Mt. Pisgah & writer of several church histories and instrumental in organization of Shell Point Church.



Rev. A. L. Brown, pastor of Southport 1937-1946, and Mill Creek Churches 1941 & 1942.



Supply Church, built 1950.

**Mill Creek Church - 1952, First Sunday in new building
Rev. Fred Gore of Whiteville, NC, pastor (in front row holding Bible)**



